Police hunt 4 terrorists planning attacks in country

Story Below Col. I

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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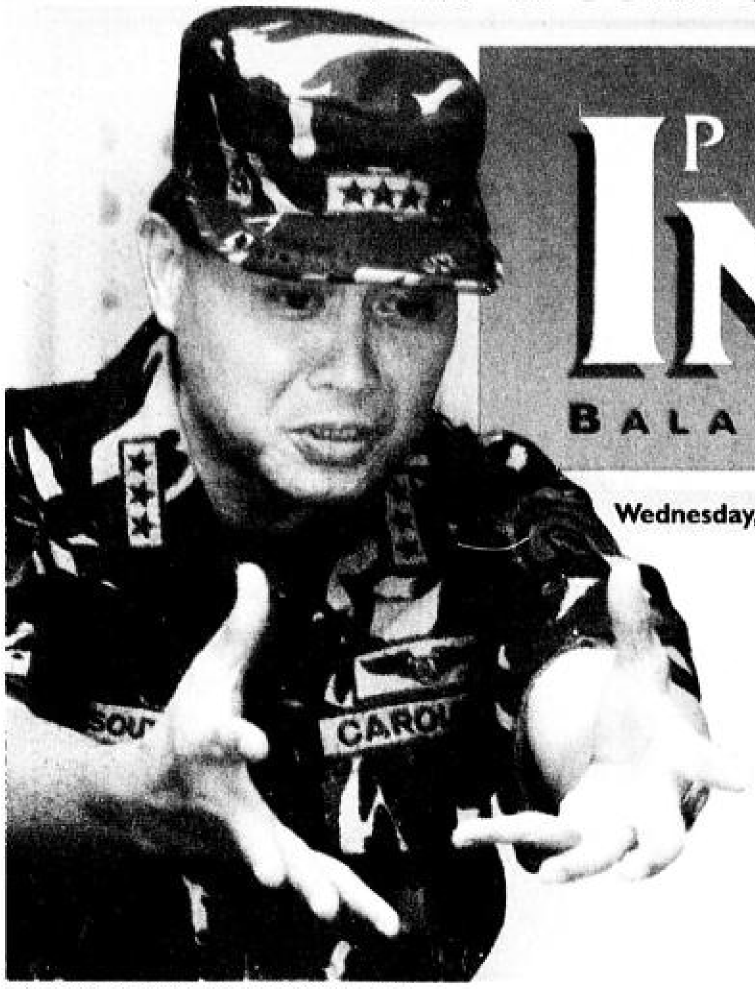
World-class shopper ends up in 'tiangge'

By R. Nazareno

PA TIANGGE
TIANGGE NA
LANG AKO

LIKE hordes of women of the common, centavo-pinching variety, former first lady Imelda Marcos was spotted Monday morning at the

WORLD-CLASS/ A19



LT. GEN. ERNESTO CAROLINA: Did credit-grabbing get in the way? AP

Southcom chief kicked upstairs

40 soldiers dead under Carolina's command

By Fe Zamora
INQ7.net
Carlito Pablo and Julie Alipala

CREDIT-GRABBING for the surrender of a top Abu Sayyaf commander was the last straw that led to the relief of Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina as chief of the Southern Command, according to a source in the military.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has designated Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as the new Southcom commander. Carolina, who assumed the post of Southcom chief only last May 20, will replace Abaya as AFP deputy chief of staff on Thursday.

An INQ7.net source said an Army intelligence team had succeeded in "neutralizing" Abu Sayyaf commander Hamsiraji Sali but Carolina would only allow the surrender to take place "if he gets the credit."

An Army team went to Basilan over the weekend to "fetch" Sali, who carries a P5-million reward on his head, but the plan was aborted because Carolina "put his foot down on the plan."

"The problem was that he (Carolina) had already informed the President that he could bring this commander to the Palace," the source said. "He didn't want

SOUTHCOM/ A18

12 killed, mostly kids, in Isabela road crash

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—At least 12 people, most of them children, were killed and more than 30 others were hurt Tuesday when their overloaded jeepney lost its brakes and slammed into a tree in a remote village here, police said.

Chief Insp. Alexander Santos, Ilagan police chief, said the victims were mostly wards of a day care center who were returning from a field trip to the Sta. Victoria Caves in Barangay Sta. Victoria. He said the accident happened past 6 p.m.

Santos said the jeepney was packed with passengers, some of them riding on the roof.

Rescue and recovery teams

12 DEAD/ A18

4 terrorists planning hits hunted

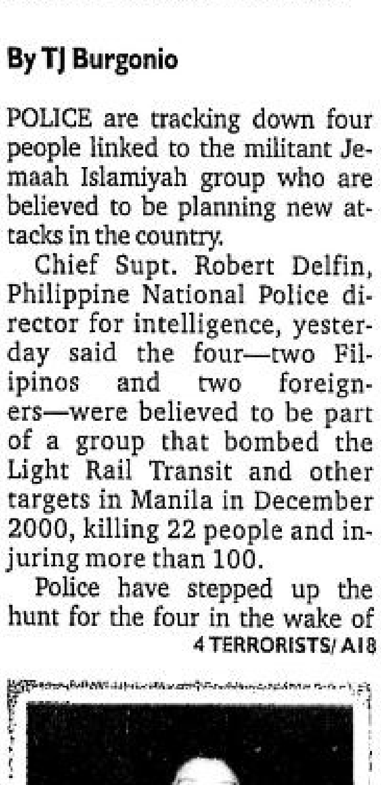
By TJ Burgonio

POLICE are tracking down four people linked to the militant Jemaah Islamiyah group who are believed to be planning new attacks in the country.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Philippine National Police director for intelligence, yesterday said the four—two Filipinos and two foreigners—were believed to be part of a group that bombed the Light Rail Transit and other targets in Manila in December 2000, killing 22 people and injuring more than 100.

Police have stepped up the hunt for the four in the wake of

4 TERRORISTS/ A18


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

BELLE OF BALL. Lotsa' fancy footwork left in Imelda Marcos, which she displays at Klub Don Juan de Manila, composed of the country's racehorse owners.

MOURNING in paradise: On the beach near the Bali capital of Denpasar, a tearful foreigner prays amid the glow of candles and the scent of incense sticks during vigil rites for the dead and the missing. AFP

PAINFUL PROCESS

Only 39 out of 180 dead identified so far

BALI, Indonesia—Holding a crumpled photocopied picture of his missing 15-year-old daughter, David Byron struggles to come to grips with the achingly slow process of identifying loved ones charred beyond recognition in Saturday night's bomb attacks on this resort island.

The Australian, from Sydney's famous Bondi Beach, is desperate for information but he and many others may have to confront the reality that trying to identify many of the bodies at Bali's Sanglah hospital morgue may be fruitless.

Many victims of the Bali bombing suffered such dreadful injuries that they could only be identified through jewelry, hotel keys, or tattered clothing, medical experts said.

Together with scars and tattoos, these mundane little items are helping to supplement forensic and DNA analysis in identifying bodies recovered from the scene of Saturday's car bomb explosion.

ONLY/ A18

Say sorry, Mahathir tells RP

KUALA LUMPUR—Now it's Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad saying that the Philippine government should apologize for concluding that Malaysian police had raped a 13-year-old Filipino.

"I think they should (apologize), because they jumped to conclusions that we rape their people," the Associated Press quoted Mahathir as telling reporters yesterday. "You ought to be a little more sensitive and a lit-

SAY/ A19

Azcuna leads race for lone SC vacancy

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

ONE man is leading in the race for the lone vacant seat in the 15-member Supreme Court.

It would seem that Adolf Azcuna, 63, legal counsel and spokesperson during the presidency of Corazon Aquino, is headed for the high court after he got the support of a majority of the

AZCUNA/ A6

ID plan faces rough sailing in Congress

By Christine Avendaño, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana

IT APPEARS that the proposed national ID system will not easily pass Congress despite the National Security Council's unanimous agreement Monday that it will add teeth to the anti-terrorism drive.

Representatives Jose Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon) and Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said a national ID could serve as a good administrative instrument and "anti-red tape device" but not as an effective deterrent to terrorist acts.

Zubiri said in a statement that a national ID "should not be marketed as one with awesome powers, such as stopping bombers in their tracks." He said the government should explain how it could "put the Abu Sayyaf on the run" before requiring everyone to carry one.

In a phone interview, Rosales said she was more concerned that the ID would be prone to abuse "especially if you don't have an efficient and competent law enforcement system."

Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) chided the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for

ID PLAN/ A6

MAITUM INFORMATION OFFICE

HERE lies a falcata tree, 20, felled by violators of the Community-Based Forest Management Agreement in Datal Ibang, New La Union in Maitum,Sarangani. The illegal cutting of trees reportedly is destroying the major source of irrigation and household water in the village and its neighbors.

Co-op cuts trees like matchsticks

By Aquilez Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MAITUM, Sarangani—For illegally cutting at least one hundred fully grown trees such as *yakal* and *lawaan* in Datal Ibang and in Mt. Pasil, a cooperative may lose its permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to harvest trees.

The Sangguniang Bayan here has asked the DENR to suspend the permit granted to Zion Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco) because it

CO-OP/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/16/02

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

BSP seeks OFWs help to stabilize peso

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS THE PESO remained weak to close slightly lower at 53.135 to $1 yesterday, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas urged relatives of overseas Filipino workers to start selling their dollars to take advantage of the exchange rate.

Traders said that with the gloomy outlook on regional currencies, the peso would likely linger at the P53 level for one more week, unless huge amounts of dollars were released into the spot market by the BSP, exporters and the recipients of OFW remittances in the country.

Yesterday, the peso opened slightly weaker at P53.10 from Monday's close of P53.03. It dropped to a day low of P53.17 before recovering toward the closing.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. advised the public not to panic despite the volatility of the peso, as the local currency should stabilize within the quarter when OFWs begin remitting dollars to pay for the second semester tuition of their children here.

"The public should not panic and investors should not speculate against the peso. Those with dollars should start selling them because the current price is attractive," said Tetangco.

The central bank official said exporters and OFW families should convert their dollars to pesos now to get more for the buck. Companies, on the other hand, should wait for the peso to recover before buying dollars at these expensive rates.

The BSP, he said, has started spotting substantial selling of greenbacks among OFWs, with the volume expected to rise next week until the start of the second school semester in November.

"By December, the dollar inflows would be even higher," Tetangco said.

A treasury official of a foreign bank said trading today should range between P53 and P53.25 to $1. "I think the peso would stay at the P53 level for one more week," he said.

Regional currencies were also under pressure. The Singapore dollar dropped to a five-month low of 1.80 from 1.79 to the dollar, the Thai baht to an eight-month low of 44.18, and the Indonesian rupiah to a six-month low of 9,400 from 9,340 on Monday.

After Bali, cops tighten security around Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Security has been tightened at the world-famous Boracay island resort, following the bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia, last Saturday which killed some 190 people, mostly foreign tourists.

Supt. Edgardo Mendoza, Aklan police director, said entry to Boracay has been restricted to the port jetty at Barangay Caticlan in Malay town, a 15-minute boat ride from the resort. Boracay is in the province of Aklan.

Mendoza said the security measure would ensure that boats going to the island, known for its white sand beaches, would be tightly monitored. Previously, boats were allowed to sail directly to Boracay without passing through the port jetty.

But the measure would be temporary, he said, until the peak season begins next month, otherwise it would cause undue delays to visitors whose numbers are expected to rise significantly through May.

Mendoza said that even before the Bali incident, the police on Boracay were beefed up from 12 to 50 personnel with the creation of an island command that replaced the police precinct.

He said police at three docking stations on the island were on 24-hour alert. "We are prepared and vigilant," Mendoza said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

For his part, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon told a House budget hearing yesterday he was optimistic the Philippines would continue to attract tourists, despite the assault on its neighbor Indonesia.

Gordon said there was a 39 percent increase in tourist arrivals in the country this year.

'Sacred tourism ground'

He said Bali was considered "sacred" tourism ground but could be expected to experience "very hard times" ahead after the terrorist attack.

But he said that because of its vibrant and sustained tourism promotion, Thailand is expected to benefit most from the fallout of the Bali bombing.

"However, the Philippines will not be hurt much, especially if we promote (ourselves)," Gordon said.

He said that despite the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington, the global tourism industry has continued to grow, indicating a strong and resilient market.

He said Asia is the fastest-growing region for tourism but the Philippines has lagged significantly behind its neighbors because of the lack of funds to promote tourism and build infrastructure and facilities for visitors.

"It could never be the end of the world for tourism because tourism is something that grows back," Gordon said.

Records of the regional DOT office showed that 202,061 tourists came to Boracay in the first half of the year. The figure nearly equals the number of visitors recorded for all of last year which was 264,807.

Despite 9-11, Gordon said, global tourism grew by 3.4 percent per annum.

He said global tourism saw 692 million arrivals this year compared to 697 million in 2000.

International tourism receipts, he said, amounted to $475.9 billion in 2000.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations grabbed 4.5 percent of the global market, with 40 million tourist arrivals this year compared to 37 million in 2000. But the Philippines only got 1.8 million of the 40 million tourist arrivals, Gordon said. *With a report by Juliet Javellana*

Lottery offers better odds than text games, solons told

By C. O. Avendaño

A PERSON has more chances of winning the lottery than "text games."

This claim was made by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. in a position paper it submitted to the House committee on games and amusement which started hearings yesterday on text or short message system (SMS) games operated by telecom giants Smart and Globe.

Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, who earlier filed the resolution seeking the inquiry, quoted the Pagcor paper which said that the odds of winning the lottery was one in 5.2 million, and text games, one in 1.7 billion.

In a news briefing after the hearing, Gunigundo said Pagcor would "assert its jurisdiction" over the widespread games which, he said, contributed to reported earnings of P6.2 billion and P5 billion for Smart and Globe, respectively, for the first half of this year.

The solon said the games definitely had elements of gambling because they were based on chance and prize money.

Pagcor would require Smart and Globe to submit the mechanics of the games for evaluation, Gunigundo said. "They should suspend the games until this is cleared up," he added.

For the next hearing, the committee is set to summon television producers of game shows with text or SMS components, like ABS-CBN's "Game KNB?"

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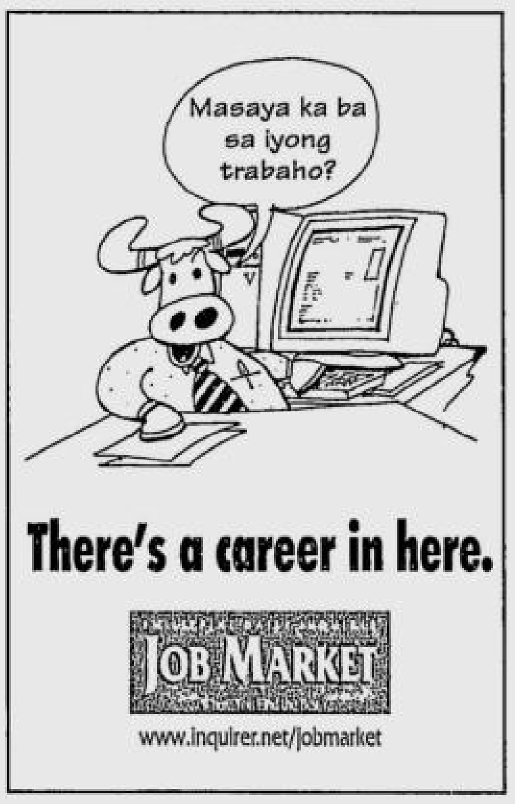

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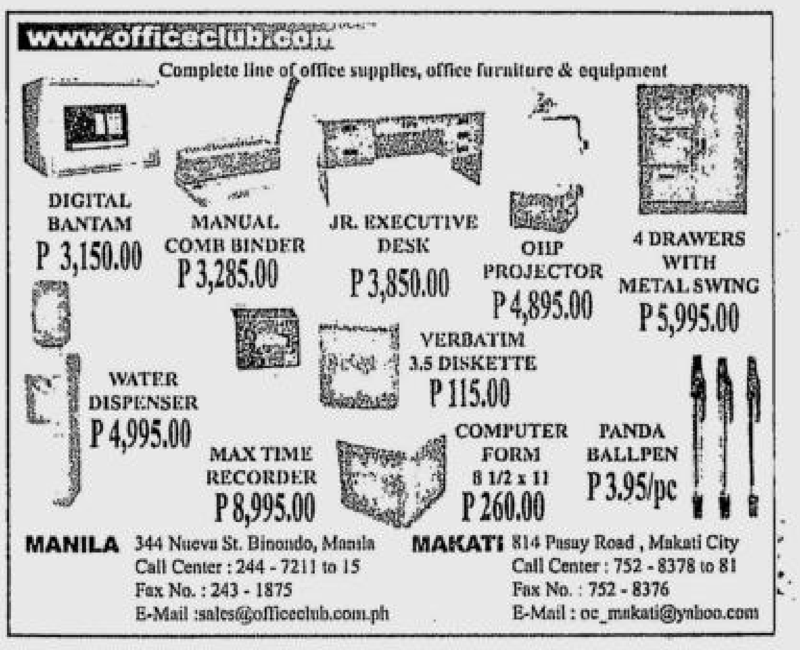

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Imports threaten RP food security, farmers' groups say

AGRICULTURAL imports are threatening the Philippines' food security.

Farmers' groups aired this warning yesterday during the celebration of World Food Day, underscoring local planters' ongoing battle against cheaper imported vegetables and falling farmgate prices.

The celebration was highlighted by the launch of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng Mamamayan Laban sa Liberalisasyon ng Agrikultura (Pumalag), convened by farmers, peasant women, small rice retailers, officers of the National Council of Irrigators Association, coffee planters, Cordillera vegetable growers, employees of the National Food Authority and the Department of Agriculture.

Pumalag II renewed calls for the government to take agriculture out of the World Trade Organization, maintaining that full-scale liberalization according to WTO policy was proving to be "devastating."

In compliance with WTO rules, the Philippines reduced tariffs on agricultural products to an average of 12 percent this year, and then gradually to nine percent by 2004.

Ed Mora, chair of the Sandigan at Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, said this had pushed farm gate prices to their lowest levels in three years. For instance, he said, garlic had come down from P98/kg in 1999 to P47 in 2001 and onions from P40/kg to P25.

"(This is) threatening the very lives of farmers," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Owwa man fired for Pinay's rape

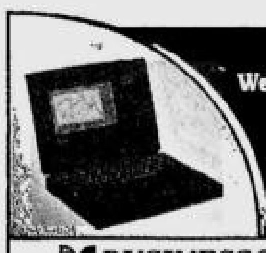
AN OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration case officer in Saudi Arabia has been fired for allegedly pimping a Filipino domestic helper who had run away from her employer.

Bashir Ayob, an Owwa administrative assistant who was recently promoted in the labor office in Riyadh, was terminated on Oct. 10.

The victim, identified only as Flor, had accused Ayob of taking her out of the Bahay Kalinga shelter for Filipino runaways and selling her to an Arab for 7,000 riyals (P91,000).

In her complaint, Flor said Ayob took her to a market called "Batha" where she was dragged into an embassy van, where Ayob hit her and the Arab molested her three times.

Blanche S. Rivera



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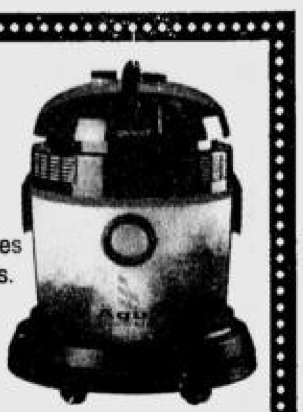

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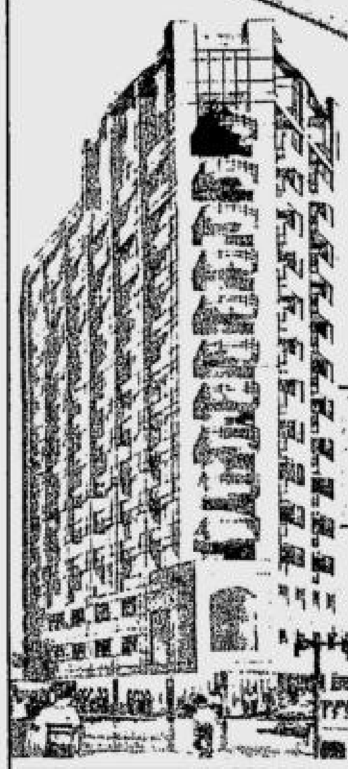

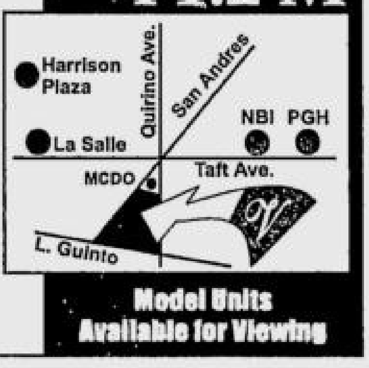

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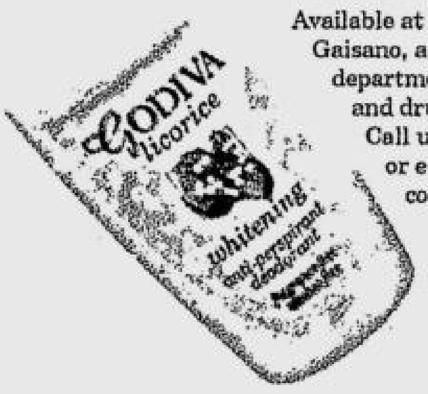

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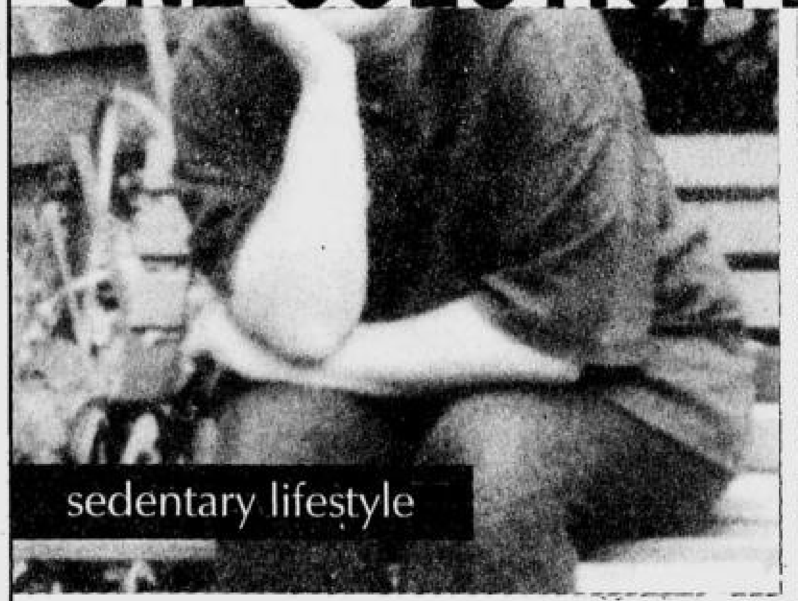

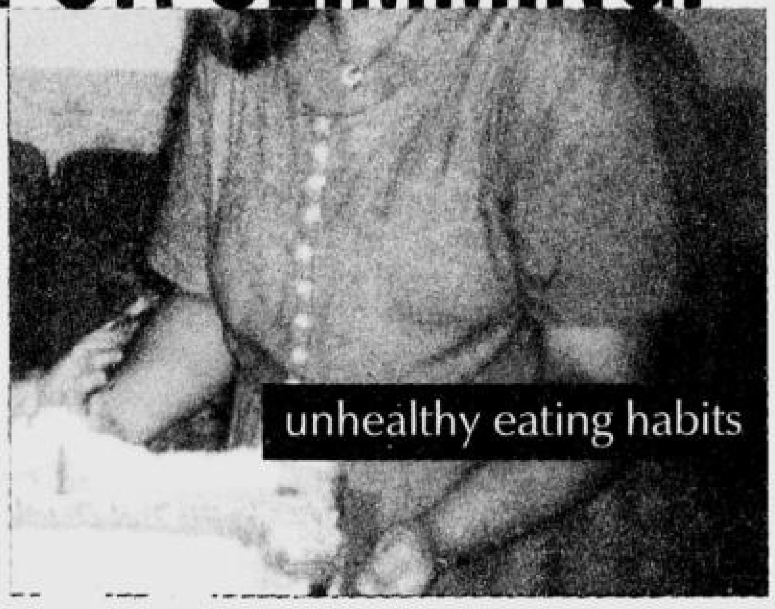

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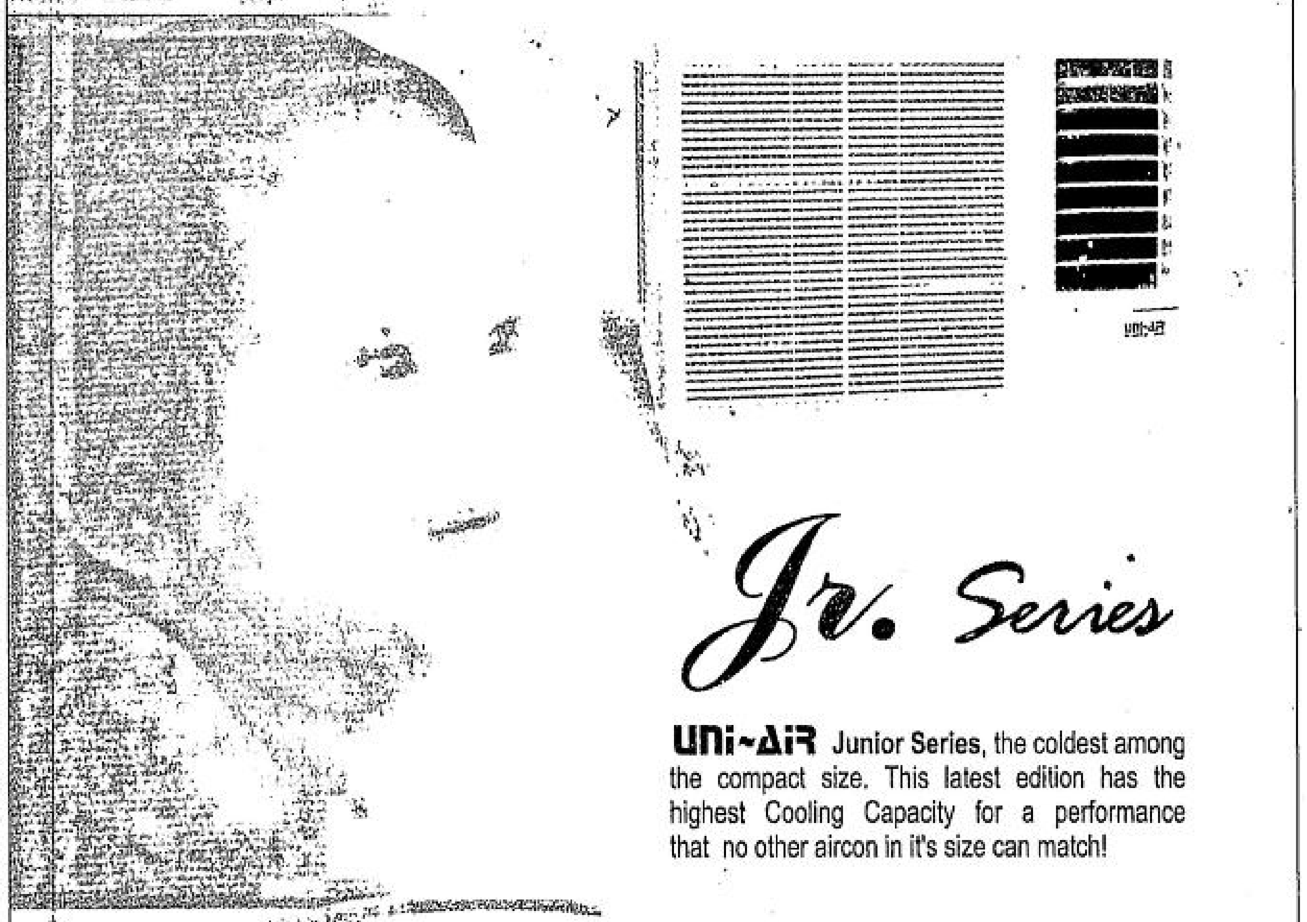
Solons want new RP-US air talks

THE HOUSE committees on transportation and communication and foreign affairs want a renegotiation of the "open skies" agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

The two committees yesterday approved the resolution filed by Cagayan de Oro City Constantino Jaraula seeking the renegotiation of the agreement, as the bodies wrapped up their joint hearing on the matter.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, vice chair of the House foreign affairs committee, said the committee report will recommend the "sense of the House" that "the renegotiation of the RP-US air transport agreement was necessary."

Jaraula said the RP-US air pact was "unfair" to Manila because the country's airlines—Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific—are not in a position to compete with US airlines which are subsidized by their government.



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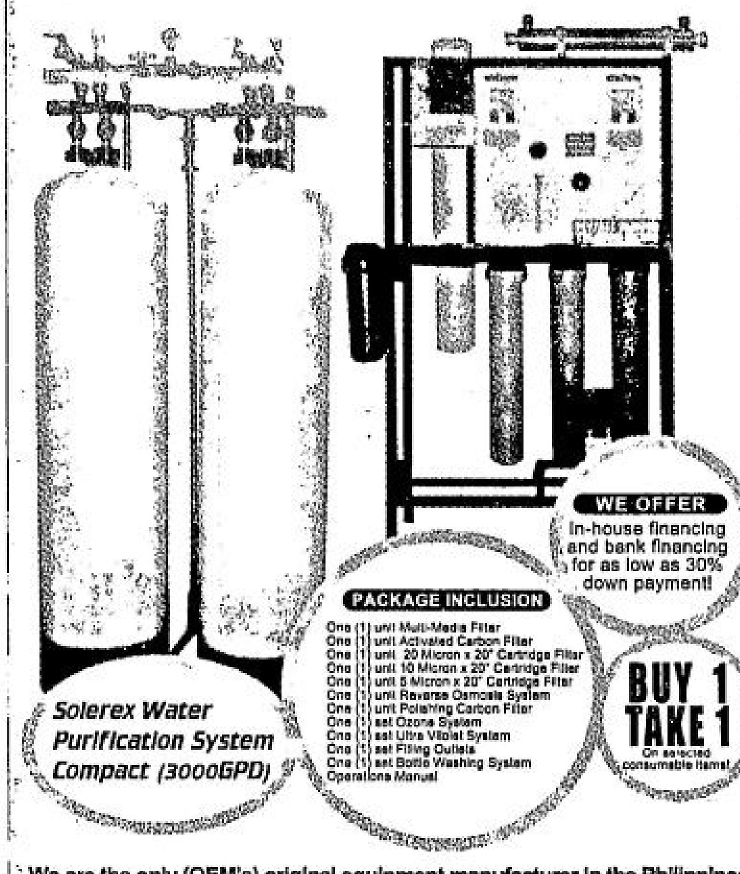

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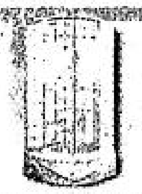

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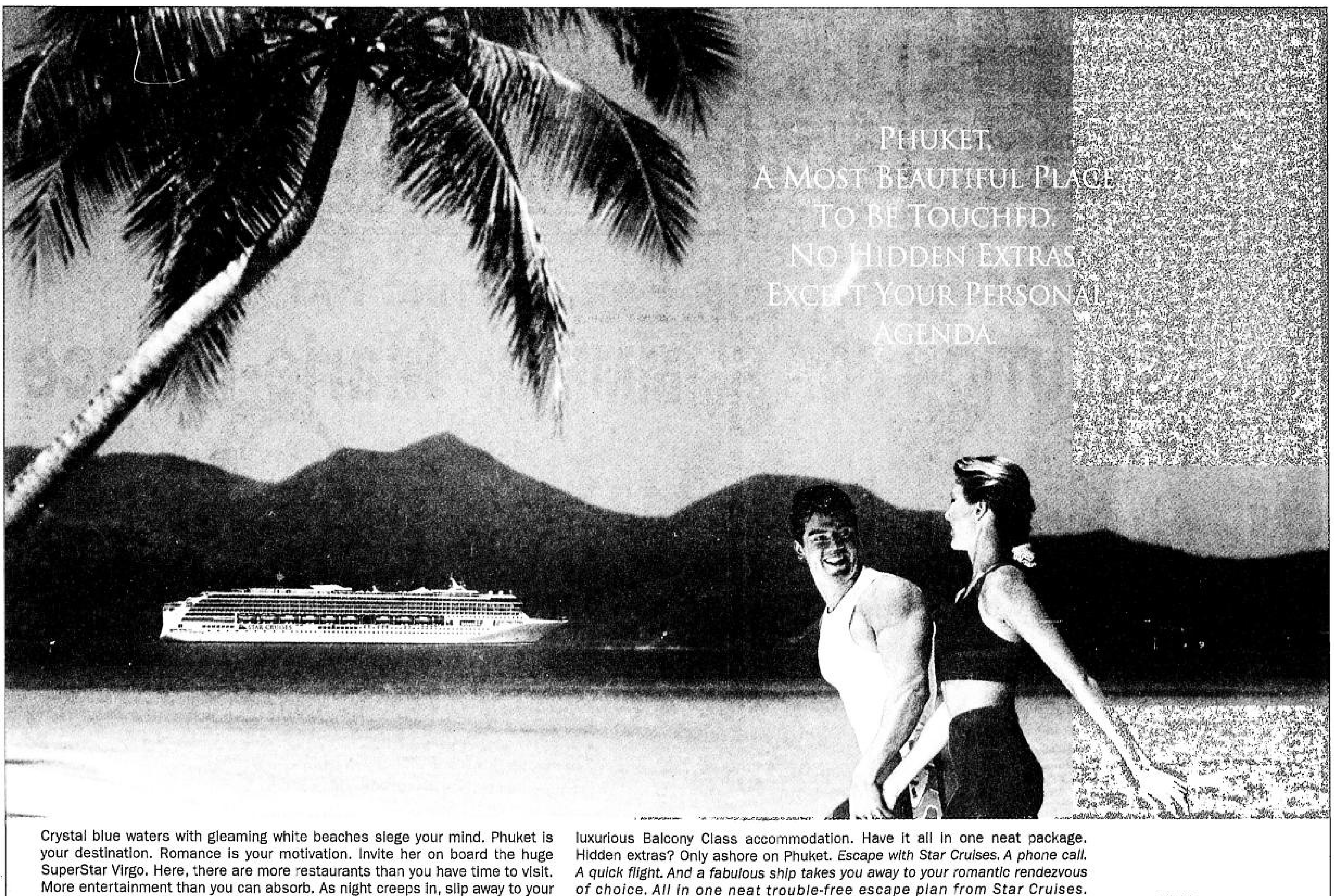

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SSS gives employers break in paying arrears

THE SOCIAL Security System has designed a 36-to-60-month payment plan for cash-strapped employers who are delinquent in remitting their contributions, loan payments and penalties amounting to some P6 billion to the pension fund.

A senior SSS official said over the weekend the pension fund decided to offer the installment plan to employers to allow their employee-members to continue to avail themselves of SSS privileges, at the same time enhancing the pension fund's chances to collect the past due contributions.

The plan is believed to be preferred by delinquent employers than the SSS practice of converting unpaid contributions to loans. The SSS said more than 255,500 employers were delinquent.

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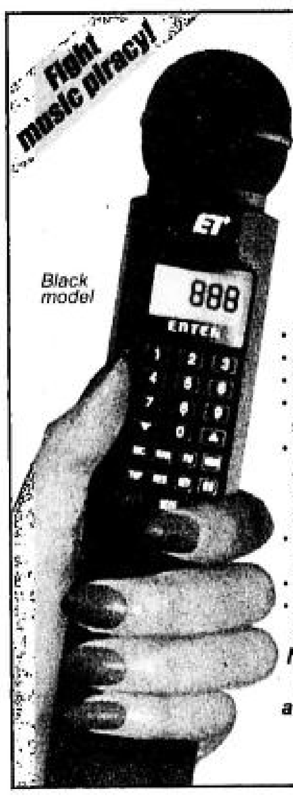

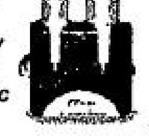

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Promo Period: October 15, 2002 to January 15, 2003

Coverage : Nationwide, divided into the following zones: Northeast Luzon, Northwest Luzon, Central Luzon, North Metro, Central Metro, South Metro, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Cebu/Bohol, Western Visayas (except Iloilo & Guimaras provinces), Samar/Leyte North Mindanao and South Mindanao

Prizes per zone:
1st monthly draw:
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Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets
2nd monthly draw:
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3rd monthly draw:
Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
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Promo Mechanics:

- Open to anyone who purchase Shellane LPG whether for a refill, a cylinder purchase, cylinder swap or Shellane stove promo purchase.
- Purchase can be from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or through Shellane Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery.

Raffle ticket allocation is as follows:

Every purchase of 11 kg. refill	- 1 raffle coupon
Every cylinder swap	- 1 raffle coupon
Every purchase of 11 kg. cylinder w/ refill	- 2 raffle coupons
Every purchase of stove promo package	- 4 raffle coupons

- Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Tel. #, Name and Address of Shellane Retail Outlet and Signature.
- Drop raffle coupon(s) in drop boxes located at all authorized Shellane distributor showrooms and retail outlets.
- A winner can win only once per draw. All non-winning coupons per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draws.
- The Shellane retail outlet indicated on the winning coupon will receive the same prize as the end user. If in case the source of purchase is a Shellane distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery, another ticket will be drawn until a winning retailer is determined. This extra draw will be done after all the end user prizes have been awarded; the end user owner of the original ticket drawn stays on as a prize winner.
- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations:

Northeast Luzon	- PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon	- PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon	- PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro	- PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog	- PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol	- PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona,CamarinesSur
Cebu/Bohol	- PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas	- PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte	- PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, , Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao	- PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao	- PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Calitipan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
- To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID.
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
- All employees of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, all Shellane distributors, the advertising agency including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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Azcuna leads race for lone vacancy in high court

From page A1

the Supreme Court justices yesterday.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee is also headed for another position. Teehankee, 44, replaces Amado Valdes as head of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC).

The OGCC represents the government in cases involving government-owned and controlled corporations.

In his press briefing yesterday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did not explain why Teehankee was named in an acting capacity at the OGCC.

Bunye also did not say what will happen to Valdes and who will replace Teehankee at the Department of Justice.

Teehankee is the son of the late Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee. He graduated valedictorian of his law class at the Ateneo de Manila University and topped the bar examinations of 1983.

Teehanke holds two master's degrees in law from the United States and United Kingdom.

During a full court session, 10 justices voted to recommend Azcuna for the position vacated on Aug. 12 by Associate Justice Santiago Kapunan.

Three others made it to the SC short list: Court of Appeals Acting Presiding Justice Cancio Garcia (nine votes); CA Associate Justice Delilah Magtolis (eight) and the high tribunal's Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco (seven).

Actually, only eight justices were present during yesterday's en banc session. However, four of the six justices who are abroad sent their votes through Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The high court will transmit the shortlist to the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), which will hold a separate secret voting of the nominees today.

Usually, the result of the Supreme Court voting is adopted by the JBC in coming up with its own shortlist, an official of the high court told the INQUIRER.

The shortlist is subsequently transmitted to the Office of the President.

"More or less, the SC shortlist will be the same as the JBC shortlist. Although, the JBC can add one or two more nominees," the official added.

The official also pointed out that Azcuna did not make it to the shortlist transmitted on Aug. 14 by the JBC to the President when Associate Justices Jose A.R. Melo and Sabino de Leon retired.

Under the law, the President can only choose from the names submitted by the JBC. She can junk the shortlist altogether, but is barred from asking the JBC to modify it.

"From three votes last month, he got 10 votes this time. The difference is just too wide to be ignored by the JBC and the President," the official stressed.

Azcuna was briefly in the limelight last month when President Macapagal-Arroyo publicly expressed a desire to have him appointed to the high court.

Rumors have it that Ms Macapagal promised Ms Aquino that Azcuna would be included in the JBC list when the President attended the 19th death anniversary of Sen. Benigno Aquino last month.

When Azcuna failed to make it to the shortlist, President Macapagal appointed CA Associate Justices Romeo Callejo and Conchita-Carpio Morales.

A law graduate cum laude of the Ateneo de Manila, Azcuna renewed his application for the SC position.

The SC made known its choice for the vacant post just a week after Azcuna and eight other luminaries in the legal profession faced the powerful members of the JBC during a panel interview at the Supreme Court's old session hall in Manila.

All nine are aiming for a seat in the country's highest court.

Besides the four who made it to the SC shortlist, the other SC aspirants were private lawyer Eduardo Inlayo, CA Associate Justices Eugenio Labitoria and Ruben Reyes, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory Ong and Presidential Anti-Graft Commission Chair Dario Rama.

Acting Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario declined her nomination and did not show up for the Oct. 8 panel interview. In a letter to the JBC, she said that wanted to spend her time fulfilling her duties as presiding justice of the anti-graft court and concurrent chair of the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

During the panel interview, Azcuna vowed to "bring the Supreme Court closer to the poor "if he should be chosen as SC justice.

Azcuna was also barraged with questions relating to the complaint lodged by civil society group Bantay Katarungan led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga, accusing him of fronting for a dummy of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the brother-in-law of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos..

He, however, maintained his innocence.

ID plan faces rough sailing in Congress

From page A1

supposedly using the Oct. 12 bomb attacks in Indonesia to justify the implementation of a national ID system, and urged civil libertarians to be on guard against "increasing militarism."

"While the proponents try to pass off the national ID system and the terror bills as measures to guard the public from the scourge of terrorism, the implementation of such authoritarian measures means the actual surrender of civilian power to the military and intelligence agencies," he said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo pointed out that the Supreme Court had earlier struck down the concept of a national ID. He was referring to the tribunal's ruling in 1998 that rejected the concept as "unconstitutional" and violative of the right to privacy.

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the President did not bring up the subject at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"The ball is in the court of the legislature because they were the ones who made the recommendation. It just so happened everyone agreed," he said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. were the ones who broached the idea during the meeting of the National Security Council on Monday.

Drilon reportedly said a national ID would require information normally required by the Social Security System, "so it will not be intrusive and invade people's privacy."

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who opposed the proposed system when he was still senator, is currently in Europe. But former President Fidel Ramos, who tried to implement such a system in 1996, attended the NSC meeting.

"The idea we got from the meeting was that this would a legislative initiative," Bunye said.

Money matters

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla agreed that a national ID would be "convenient" for transacting business, but stressed that it should protect, and not violate, human rights.

He also wanted to know whether it would be the government that would fund for the implementation of the system.

But Sen. Ralph Recto said there was no need to spend billions of pesos for a new system because the Philippine National Health (PhilHealth) Insurance Card should be given to all Filipinos under a 1995 law.

Recto said that by giving such a card to everyone, the government would hit two birds with one stone: health insurance for all and a national citizen register.

Republic Act 7875, the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 that created PhilHealth, calls for the universal and compulsory coverage of Filipinos in a national health insurance system.

Section 2 requires each citizen to enroll in the National Health Insurance System, after which he/she will be given an ID card by PhilHealth. At present, about 40 million Filipinos carry such a card.

Recto said the PhilHealth card met the characteristics of an ideal ID: "It is not invasive of one's privacy. The information supplied is limited to basic data."

He said that once adopted as the national ID, the card could be improved by including a photo and other vital information required by law enforcers.

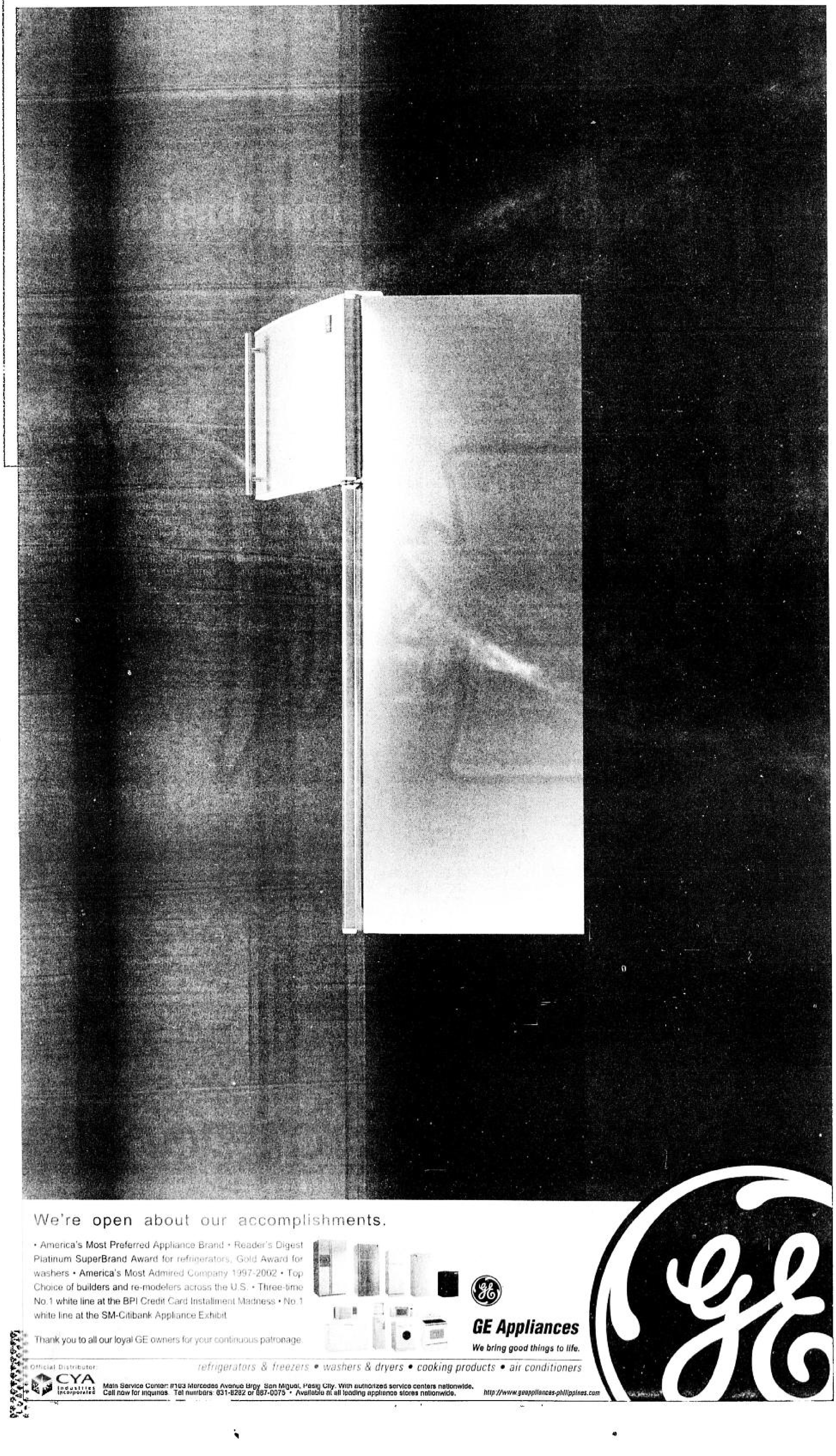
But Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta cautioned her colleagues in Congress against a hasty approval of the proposed system.

"A national ID system should speed up the delivery of frontline services by the government instead of becoming a tool for invading one's privacy," she said.

Drilon, however, said he could not see how an ID could constitute a restriction of one's rights.

"We carry IDs in our pockets. I don't think that it restricts us in our movements, unless you have something to hide," he said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, recommended the adoption of a national ID using biometrics, an emerging field of technology devoted to the identification of individuals using such biological traits as those based on retina or iris scanning, fingerprints, or face recognition.



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SC won't stop toll hike

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court dismissed yesterday twin petitions seeking to block the collection of increased toll rates at the South Luzon Expressway and the Skyway.

The court's Third Division, on a technicality, refused to issue a restraining order against the "arbitrary" toll increases implemented by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) on Jan. 1 and July 1 this year.

In a 27-page decision, the SC said that instead of elevating the matter to the high tribunal, petitioners lawyer Ceferino Padua and Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita should have exhausted all legal means before the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and the Office of the President.

The TRB is the government agency that authorizes toll rate adjustments for the North and South Luzon Expressways.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. operates the expressways, while the CMMTC is its joint-venture partner in the SLEX.

"At this point, let it be stressed that we are not passing upon the reasonableness of the provisional toll rate adjustments. As we have earlier mentioned, this matter is best addressed by the TRB," the high court said.

The SC then dismissed Padua's urgent motion for a temporary restraining order to stop the toll increase and Zialcita's petition for prohibition.

The SC decision, however, did not delve on the main issues raised by Padua in his petition for mandamus.

Kidnap victim rescued

LAOAG CITY—Police rescued a Chinese-Filipino kidnap victim on Monday night from his four abductors while they were on their way to Metro Manila.

The victim, Jimmy Ting, was recovered from his captors when their vehicle was blocked in a police checkpoint in Badoc town near the boundary of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

Supt. Romeo Espiritu, Ilocos Norte police director, in an interview aired over radio station dzEA, said Ting was abducted in Bulacan on Oct. 9 and taken to a safehouse in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

Espiritu said the suspects took P1.6 million from Ting's family. The police, however, recovered only P675,000. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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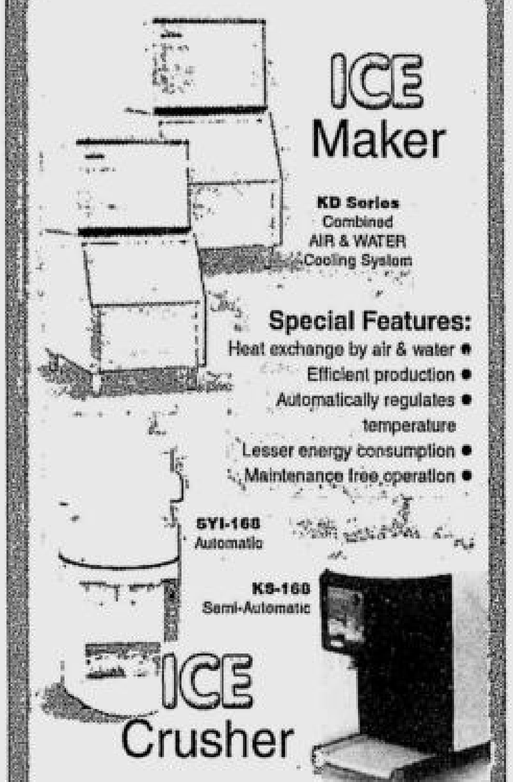

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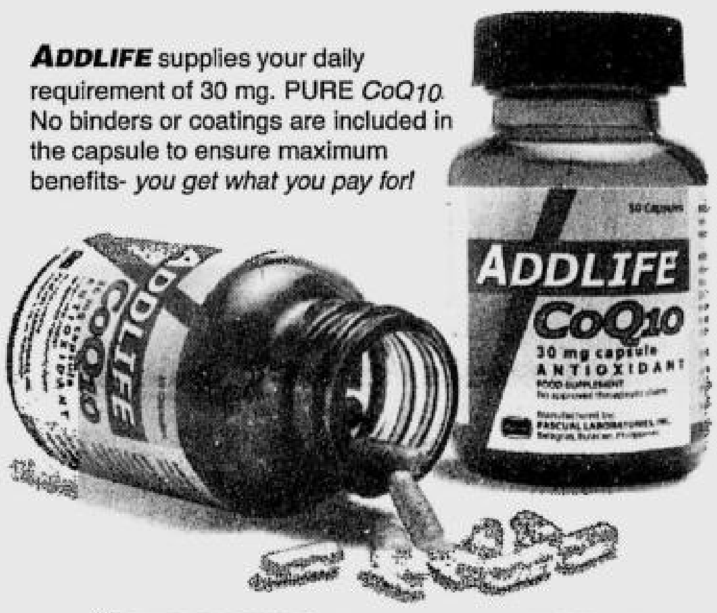

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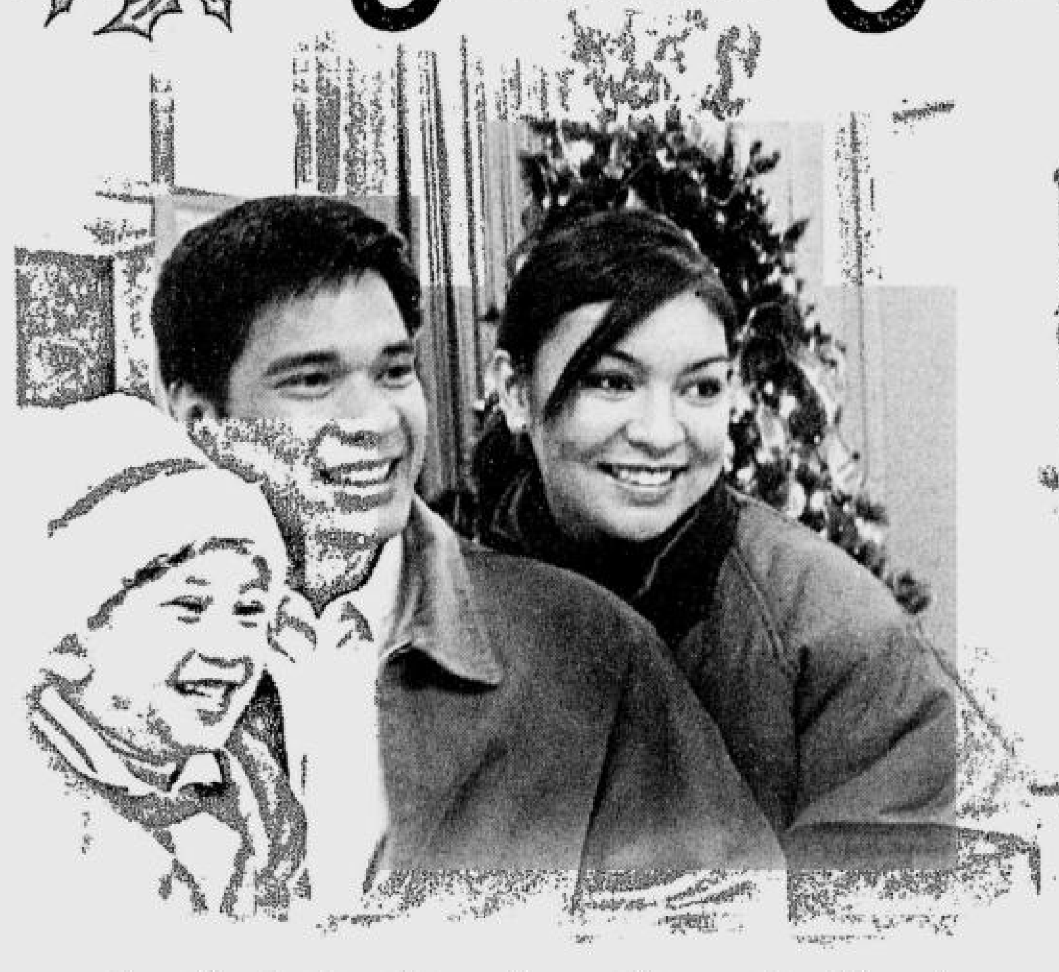

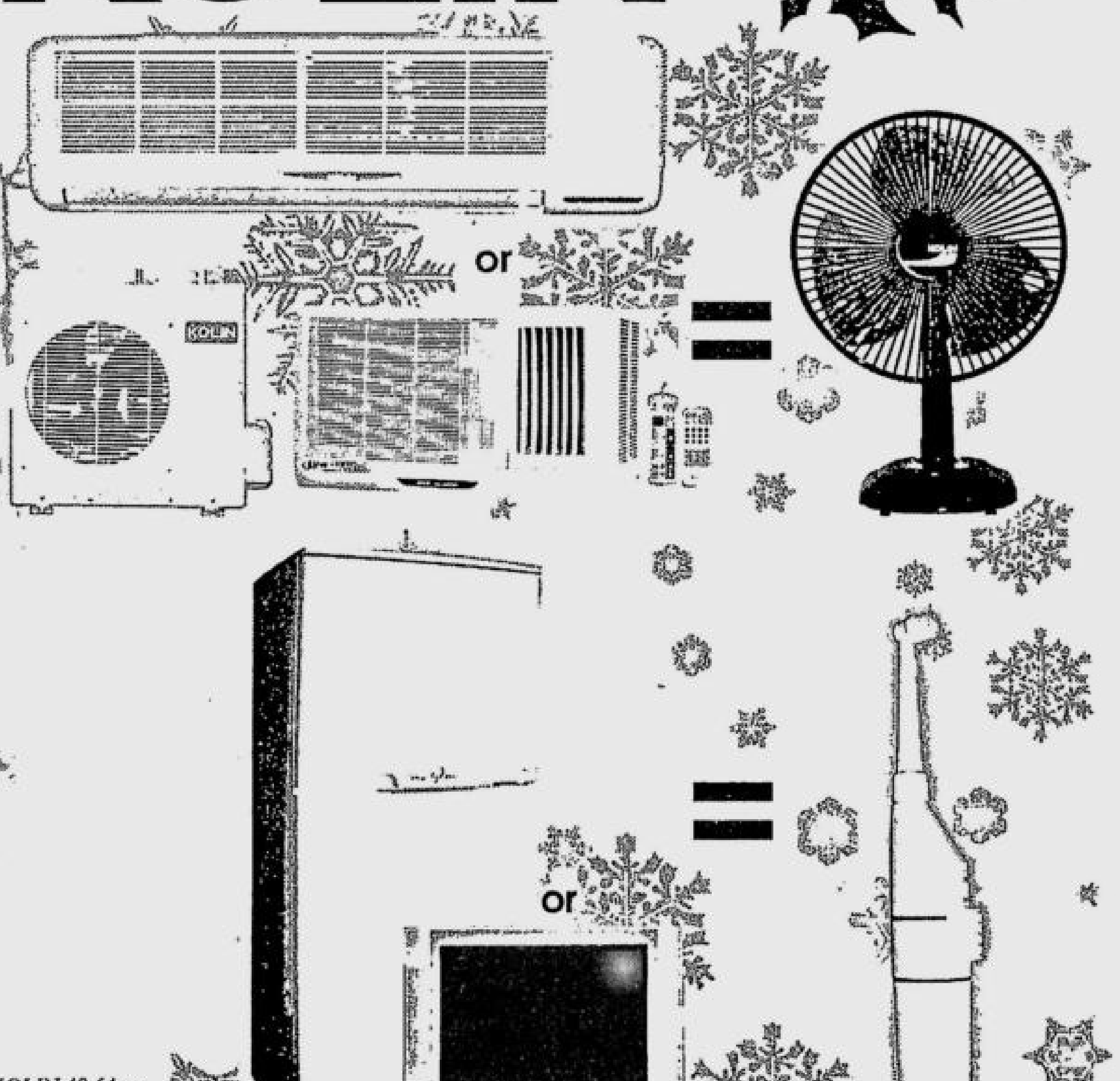

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OPINION

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To Dubya, with love

IT may please George W. Bush to think that the next phase in the international war on terror is a massive assault on Saddam Hussein, one that will force what the White House optimistically calls a "regime change" in Iraq. The car-bombing of a popular restaurant in the thriving tourist strip of Kuta Beach in the famous Indonesian holiday island of Bali last Saturday says otherwise.

EDITORIAL

The horrific attack, which killed at least 190 mostly foreign victims and injured over 300, was a terrorist's calling card, left conspicuously on the table, in a way that could not fail to attract Bush's attention.

The question is, does the American president know what it means?

The opinion page of the Asian Wall Street Journal called the attack a "wake-up call for Jakarta." And it was that too. Indonesia has famously dragged its feet on the issue of tighter security controls and anti-terrorism measures. Its laidback approach contrasted markedly with the intense counter-terrorism campaigns its neighbors—notably Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines—have conducted since the hijacked commercial planes crashed into the Twin Towers last year.

Evidence gathered since December last year point to heightened activity by the dangerous Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militant group, which seeks to create an Islamic state in Malaysia, Indonesia and the island of Mindanao, and which is closely allied with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, the al-Qaida. At least one JI member has confessed that the movement is led by Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir—a religious leader that Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, the head of state of what is after all the biggest Muslim country in the world, does not want to be seen as unnecessarily antagonizing.

But the calculated cruelty of the Bali bombing—part of a series of attacks last weekend, designed to inflict maximum damage on both Indonesia's bellwether tourism industry and Bali's transient population of foreign nationals—is certain to steel Jakarta's resolve. The national police chief called the bombing "the worst act of terror in Indonesia's history"—a superlative not to be taken lightly, in view of the convulsions that shook the country in the 1960s, when strongman Suharto rose to power, and then again in the late 1990s, when Suharto fell from grace. Also, and for the first time ever, a senior government official admitted that al-Qaida was active in the country, and was in fact partly responsible for Saturday's terrorist strike. "We are sure the al-Qaida is here," the Indonesian defense minister said on Monday. "The Bali bomb blast is linked to the al-Qaida with the cooperation of local terrorists."

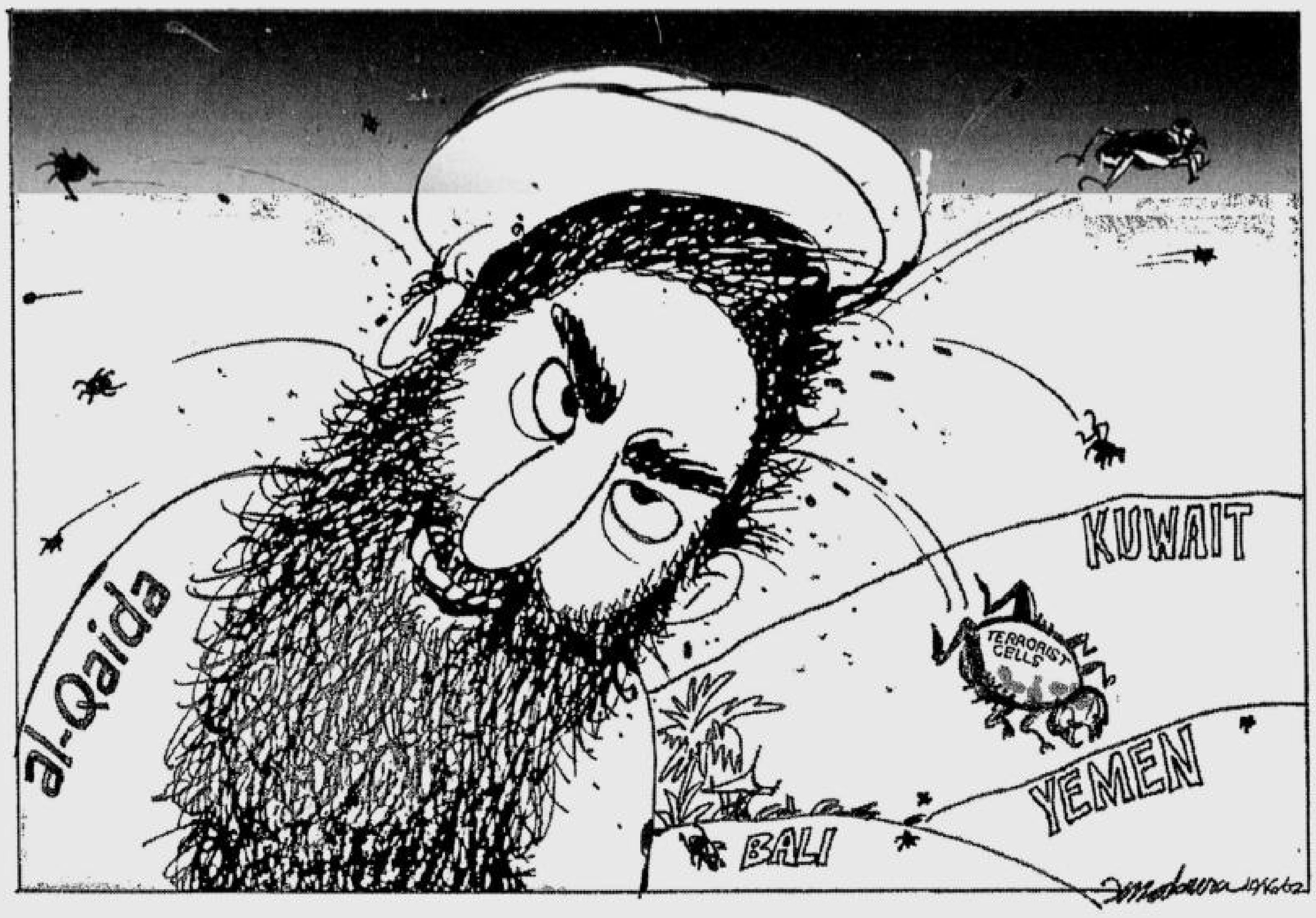
The tuition may have been excessive, but Jakarta is, on the face of it, learning its painful lesson. The terrorism crisis cannot be solved simply by wishing it away, or by pretending it never existed.

But it isn't only Indonesia that has some learning to do. Somewhere in the crater filled with stagnant water that is all that's left of Bali's popular Sari nightclub, there is also a lesson for Bush, the US government and its allies. The war on terror cannot be solved by easy fixes.

Unfortunately for the international anti-terrorism coalition that was painstakingly put together after the Sept. 11 attacks, an easy fix—militarily speaking—is precisely what the coming American invasion of Iraq is all about.

As the US-led coalition's conquest of Afghanistan clearly suggests, it is easier to strike at a conventional target like Saddam's presidential bunker than it is to fight a real war against terrorists—that is to say, to neutralize specific terrorist cells, or choke the flow of elusive terrorist funds, or protect innocent lives from terrorist bombs. But the same Afghan experience also implies that it is easier to change a regime than it is to arrest masterminds in hiding, or kill them with certainty.

We hope the many-shrapnelled irony is not lost on Bush: Just as he is preparing to invade the easy target of Iraq, the al-Qaida and its "local terrorists" are bringing the real, messy war to our doorsteps. They are even pulling up at the bar.



Is RP gov't cheating retired foreigners here?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ABOUT 15 years ago, to attract scarce foreign exchange and investments, the Philippine government invited retired foreigners to come live here in retirement peace, quiet and bliss. All they have to do is deposit US$50,000 in a Philippine bank and invest in Filipino companies. Pamphlets were circulated all over the world describing the paradise that is the Philippines where the senior citizens can retire and enjoy the sun, sea, surf and sand. A government agency, the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) was set up for the retirees. It collected various fees from each individual member, including children, of the retiree's families.

More than 6,000 foreigners from 53 countries accepted the invitation. It is estimated that they brought in $300 million in required direct bank deposits and another $3 billion placed in various business ventures. It is projected that an additional 1,000 retiree families a year could bring in a minimum of $124 million to the Philippine economy.

But now a serpent has invaded the paradise that is the Philippines and the retirees are now living in hell. The serpent is no less than the government agency set up for the retirees, the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA), which replaced the original PRA. Through their association, the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association (Prama) Foundation, the retirees accuse the PLRA of irregularities and stealing their money. Prama can't withdraw its bank deposits. The quarrel has ended up in court and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel and the Bangko Sentral.

The retirees won in the OGCC and the trial court but the PLRA board, composed of Cabinet members of the Macapagal administration, refused to obey the court order. Prama asked the court to cite them for contempt.

The PLRA struck back by having Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, a member of the PLRA board, cancel the visa of the president of the retirees' association, detaining him and ordering his deportation. How foul!

How did this mess come about?

Well, from 1986 to 1992, the original PRA was a graft-ridden, money-losing government corporation mainly blamed for the illegal importation of hundreds of millions worth of luxury cars. In spite of the millions of dollars being paid by the retirees, the PRA managed to lose P45.9 million in 1992. The corporation was on the verge of being abolished.

To give it one last chance, President Fidel V. Ramos persuaded a Spanish lawyer, Ramon M. Collado, to act as consultant to the PRA and save it from abolition.

Collado's first premise was that the foreign retirees themselves would have to unite to be of any help to the Philippines and if they in turn expected any help from the Philippine government. Thus was born the PRA Members Association Inc. (Prama Foundation). It is now an organization of 6,189 foreign retirees from 53 countries worldwide who have chosen the Philippines as their second home. The members are professionals in all fields of expertise: doctors, engineers, lawyers, management experts, bankers, financial analysts, consultants in information technology, agriculture, and in small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs).

Collado immediately saw in 1992 that the PRA was losing because the PRA dispersed the retirees' deposits in 23 depository banks. Naturally the interest rates were low. Collado convinced the PRA to concentrate the deposits in just four banks so that it can negotiate for higher interest rates.

The result of this short-listing was phenomenal: higher interest income for the investor/retirees' money and, at long last, earnings for the PRA. From an operating loss of P45.9 million in 1992, the PRA started accumulating net income as a result of the short-listing. In 1996, the total net income was P45.6 million. Previous to that, the retirees were losing P25,000 a day or about P18 million a year in interest income alone. In gratitude, the four banks offered Prama Foundation a one percent management fee. This Prama decided to split with the PRA, one-half percent for the PRA and one-half percent for Prama. Today, the PRA has P200 million, of which P60 million belongs to Prama.

But all good things come to an end. Two years ago, Prama Foundation's external auditor reported that about 30 percent of its members had not paid their annual dues. The PRA was at that time in charge of collecting Prama membership dues using the organization's official receipts. Some of these dues were allegedly not remitted to Prama and that paying members were sometimes issued improper receipts.

In an attempt to correct a bad situation, Prama tried to reconcile the list of retirees with the PRA to update its data base but the figures were found inaccurate. Moreover, the PRA denied Prama the access to pertinent records and documents needed to pinpoint discrepancies.

The PRA's refusal to accede to Prama's requests led to a complaint that reached the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

(To be continued)

Grim reminders

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE IMAGES boggle the mind. Three bombs ripped through Bali last weekend, the deadliest being the second one, which blew up a nightclub, killing hundreds of people and maiming several hundreds more. Most of the casualties were Australians, who were vacationing in their favorite tourist haunt and partying full force that Saturday night. In an instant, the bombs turned the balmy tropical scene into a fiery hellhole, littering the ground with torn bodies, and sending the blood-spattered survivors screaming out into the night.

It was "the worst act of terror in Indonesian history," said the Indonesian police chief. He may be forgiven forgetting Suharto's slaughter of thousands of dissidents, and the equally ferocious slaughter of thousands of East Timorese by thugs in the guise of Indonesian Special Forces. The scene at Bali last Saturday night did tend to push back the memory of other horrors, commanding attention only to itself. What made it especially horrific was that Bali was the last place you would expect this to happen, you do not expect heaven to be turned into hell. Like 9/11, overnight, it has redrawn the map of natural expectations, it has redefined the way we look at the world.

It also leaves several grim reminders in its wake.

Foremost of them is that it is not the people who lead crusades and jihads, the people who mount terror and counter-terrorism who end up lying in a pool of blood among the charred debris. It is not Osama bin Laden and George Bush, al-Qaida or Tony Blair, the heads of various terrorist groups and the heads of various governments who end up tearing their hair and weeping inconsolably over the death of a loved one. It is ordinary people, it is you and I. Flesh-and-blood individuals reduced to inanimate "collateral damage," a phrase quite incidentally that was not coined by terrorists but by Pentagon strategists. It is the hundreds who fell in the bombing of the Twin Towers, in the bombing of Afghanistan, in the bombing of Bali.

Second of them is that Bush's impending war against Iraq misses the point, unwittingly or otherwise. The threat does not lie in Iraq, it lurks everywhere in the world that resents not what America stands for but what America has done to it. Americans themselves have been asking why Bush has forgotten Bin Laden and al-Qaida and see only Saddam Hussein. It is a good question, which we would do to ask as well.

Third of them is what Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in reaction to the bombing. No one as yet knew who was behind it, he said, but it seemed to be motivated by "anti-Western" sentiment. Some Australian officials have since called for stricter security measures to protect Australia from more terrorist attacks. But one wonders whether Australians were really the target of the bombing in Bali or they just happened to be there more plentifully than others. Howard seems to have a better grasp of what happened when he depicted the crime as being anti-Western. It seems more likely that the bombers bombed the place because it had more Westerners, rather than more Australians, in it. In a demonic parody, or inversion, of that racist joke, "All Orientals look alike."

Chalmers Johnson, who is one of the signatories to "Not In Our Name," calls it "blowback" in his book by the same title. That is the reaction, or the boomerang effect, provoked by America's errant policies that have caused untold suffering in many parts of the world. The premise of Bush's anti-terror campaign is that it is a reaction to terrorism. But equally, the premise of terrorism is that it is a reaction to "anti-terrorism," which is another word for the terrorism wreaked by governments, chief of them the United States and Israel. Most of the world at least no longer believes that 9/11 was unprovoked, to go by the survey made by an American organization, the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations.

If you have anti-Western sentiment in some parts of the world, it is probably one spawned by a perceived anti-Eastern threat. Bush's impending war against Iraq can't possibly dispel the perception of a growing anti-Eastern sentiment by the West, it can only fan it.

And, finally, closer to home, lest we feel impervious to all of this, the Philippine consulate in Central Sulawesi was also bombed along with the US consulate in Bali. We've always acted as though our uncritical and aggressive adoption of Bush's war-mongering would not produce any consequences for us. When in fact we're tremendously vulnerable, having millions of our countrymen living abroad, especially in the Middle East. Only last week, after a meeting of the Security Council, Malacañang happily announced that we had no need to fear if war should break out in Iraq, we have readied evacuation plans for our overseas Filipino workers there. As though that were the thing to really worry about. It is a testament to how clueless we are that Roy Cimatu is one of our chief advisers on the subject, the assumption being that a military perspective is what we need there.

The bombing of the Philippine consulate in Sulawesi should wake up Malacañang, though there is a local saying that says the hardest person to rouse is the one pretending to be asleep. Clearly, there is a political fallout to our war-mongering as well. It's not just the Lone Ranger who gets shot at by the Indians, it's Tonto too. So far, the terrorists seem still able to distinguish between Filipino officials and ordinary Filipino citizens. How long that distinction will last, given our government's resolute determination to blur it, only time, or time bombs, will tell. Even terrorists eventually get to see that not all Orientals look alike.

There are grim reminders everywhere, for those who care to heed them.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Shift in al-Qaida's terrorist campaign?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE BOMBING last Saturday in Bali, which killed at least 216 people, is the worst terrorist attack on civilians since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. This time, the bomb exploded in the Hindu enclave of the most populous Muslim country in the world, and not at all in the heartland of capitalism that is so hated with equal passion by Osama bin Laden and Marxists.

In a talk to Filipino security officials at the British Embassy the other night, Rear Adm. Richard Cobbold, director of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London, said the Bali bombing and terrorist-related activities in Southeast Asia during the past few weeks foreshadowed the shift in "the center of gravity" of al-Qaida's terrorist campaign to the region.

Founded in 1831 by the Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon in Waterloo, RUSI is regarded as the leading independent authority on the United Kingdom and international defense and security issues. Cobbold's view is shared by a number of security analysts in Indonesia and in the region.

Indonesian defense officials blamed al-Qaida and its extremist allies for the Bali car bomb attack, whose victims were holidaymakers from Australia, Britain, France, Germany and Sweden. Although no one claimed responsibility for the attack, Indonesian suspicion turned to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a group linked to al-Qaida and reported to be seeking to establish a pan-Islamic state across Indonesia, Malaysia and Southern Philippines.

According to reports from London, the Bali attack may have signaled the opening by terrorist organizations of a new front in Southeast Asia even as the United States is stepping up pressure on the United Nations Security Council to pass a tough resolution demanding disarmament by Iraq of its arsenal of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

The Bali attack came a day after the US Congress passed a resolution giving authority to President George W. Bush to attack Iraq if it frustrates a new inspection by UN inspectors of its weapons facilities. Bush is pressing the council—against opposition from France, Russia and China—to pass a resolution authorizing UN inspectors to inspect suspected Iraqi facilities and automatic military action if Iraq is not cooperating with the inspectors.

In the same evening, a small bomb broke the windows of the Philippine consulate in Menado. Fears of further attacks, especially on targets with economic impact, were heightened by the Bali bombing, as well as explosion and fire aboard a French tanker off Yemen on Oct. 6. French authorities say terrorism was probably responsible for the explosion.

Philippine Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, has blamed the Abu Sayyaf, which is linked to al-Qaida, for the explosion on Oct. 2 in Zamboanga City that killed two Filipino civilians and Sgt. Mark Jackson, an American Green Beret.

Whether or not these incidents form part of the pattern of renewed al-Qaida activity in the region is not clear, but the Bali bombing, as well as the attacks in Southern Philippines, had economic repercussions. The Bali attack shook the thriving tourist industry in that island, a favored destination of Australian tourists. It was an attack on the Indonesian economy, although not yet directed at Indonesia's main economic industries, its strategic oil fields and refineries.

The Bali attack had repercussions in the Philippines. It further weakened the peso exchange rate relative to the US dollar. The series of violence, attributed to the Abu Sayyaf, in Mindanao and Sulu, has been a shattering blow to Philippine tourism and has undermined investors' confidence in the country.

Apparently, the terrorists have hit economic targets with the view to undermining political stability and governments in Southeast Asia. The Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have been cracking down on suspected al-Qaida agents in the region to counter the germ of Islamic fundamentalism. The Bali attack has put pressure on the Indonesian government to step up its efforts to crack down on terrorism. The Indonesian government has come under criticism from Malaysia and its neighbors for its laxity toward terrorism.

The Bali attack evokes similarities with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It was targeted on civilians. The attack stoked fears in Australia that it may now be vulnerable from terrorist attacks despite its isolated island position. While there was a wide expression of outrage over the Bali attack, President Bush seized upon it as an opportunity to strengthen the US case for a tough Security Council resolution on Iraq.

From all indications, there does not seem to be an orchestration between Iraq and the new surge of terrorist violence in Southeast Asia. Probably, the Southeast Asian terrorists are acting independently of Iraq. If this were so, it contradicts Bush's charge that Iraq is a terrorist state aiding al-Qaida networks. Certainly, the attacks in Southeast Asia give Bush ammunition to push his resolution in the Security Council. The attacks in Southeast Asia have served notice that al-Qaida is far from crippled after the Afghanistan campaign and can unsettle the United States' focus on Iraq.

Conspiracy theories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TALK about the "Mother of All Conspiracy Theories!"

Could Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon be the real brains behind the bombing in Bali? A headline like "Tourist exodus from Bali" would seem to promise, crass as it may sound, a tourism windfall for other destinations in the region. And this could not but be positive news for our tourism chief, who has, despite heroic efforts to mount road shows and get the rest of the world behind the "WOW Philippines" bandwagon, has only paltry tourist numbers to show off.

Of course, it's not Gordon's fault alone. The Abu Sayyaf and the wave of kidnaps-for-ransom—of foreign and local targets—have kept the tourists away. Not even a series of long weekends, ostensibly meant to jump-start domestic tourism, has been able to get families on the road, the harsh economic times dictating frugality and cocooning rather than traipsing through the countryside.

With the inferno on Kuta Beach driving tourists away, there's a tremendous tourism vacuum left to fill. Bali was easily the region's tourist mother lode, attracting visitors not just because of its beaches and seascapes, but more because of the myth it fostered, of an island of peaceful and gentle people, lulling everyone into a sense of serenity and safety. Surely, the bombs shattered and set afire not just structures and human beings, but also the enduring Bali of the world's imagination.

So guess what? The possibility is that the tragedy in Bali could very well dampen tourist enthusiasm for this part of the world, and Indonesia's neighbors, far from enjoying a tourism windfall, could very well go through a drought, an El Niño of dollar-spending visitors. And that leaves Gordon off the hook.

* * *

THE ABOVE, of course, is the fruit of simple idle talk, exchanged with friends who not only love dissecting the news and the issues they spawn, but also trading conspiracy theories. And the Dick Gordon Theory was the height of absurdity.

But it couldn't be any more absurd than all the other pronouncements issued by experts of all stripes and government authorities, Indonesian or otherwise. The most popular theory, and widely accepted even by so-called regional analysts, is of course that the bombings were the handiwork of the international Islamist terrorist network. Indonesian Defense Minister Abdul Djalil, has laid the disaster at the door of the al-Qaida "with the cooperation of local terrorists." The last is clearly in reference to the Jemaah Islamiyah, which has links to al-Qaida and has for its aim the establishment of a "pan-Islamic Southeast Asian state."

Most of the analysis and the instant verdict seem based only on the similarity of the Bali operation to other terrorist acts for which al-Qaida has claimed ownership. Jemaah Islamiyah, or JI, has been implicated only because its members have reportedly undergone training with and received funding from al-Qaida. But if the Bali bombings were indeed JI's handiwork, then it would be the first time the organization has engaged in terrorism, despite the incendiary rhetoric of its leaders. The most grievous charge against JI before Bali was its implication in a plot early this year to bomb foreign embassies in the region.

* * *

WHO would have the most to gain from the deaths of at least 190 people, mostly foreigners, in the once-paradisiacal island of Bali?

The al-Qaida and the JI would certainly gain boasting rights, another notch in their belt, striking against the enemy when and where it is least aware. The horrific sights would certainly have sown terror, sowing fear in a place where once there was no reason to fear, and where residents allegedly keep their front doors unlocked all day and night.

But why Bali? The large number of foreign tourists would most certainly be a magnet, but why hasn't Bali been targeted for large-scale kidnap-for-ransom or kidnap-for-terror activities before? It seems an odd place to assert the supremacy of Islam, since Bali is the lone Hindu holdout in the world's largest Islamic country. But even the Indonesians' brand of Islam has been described as moderate, with little of the strictures on believers, especially on women, applied, let alone imposed on them.

Was the bombing meant to provoke Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri? But why? Before this, Megawati had in fact been accused of casting an uncaring eye on the terrorist groups operating in Indonesia. One would think the JI or other similarly inclined groups would want to remain in Megawati's good graces rather than incur her ire.

* * *

BUT that has precisely been the effect of the tragedy in Bali. Minister Djahlil's unequivocal judgment against the JI and al-Qaida is indicative of the government's resolve to move against the groups. Most everybody else has gotten on Megawati's case, from other senior officials to Indonesian academics, and even other world leaders, most notably Australian Prime Minister John Howard and US President George W. Bush.

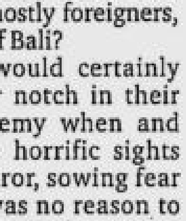
What has the bombing in Bali accomplished? It has pushed Megawati against the wall and forced her to take a more assertive stance against Islamist organizations or risk the scorn of critics at home and abroad. It has stoked global anger that seemed to wane in the year since 9/11. And the remaining opponents of the United States' plan to invade Iraq have that much less moral ground to stand on.

Which brings us back to conspiracy theories, the most popular of which in this case seems to be the eternal cliché of the CIA. But can you blame those who embrace this particular theory?

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Old maps, charts and prints



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people ask why I chose history as a career, my quick reply is that I barely survived math in school. Coming from a clan of entrepreneurs I was the mutant who was bad with numbers and had no flair for business. Maybe one can blame growing up in a house filled with books. My father did not just display books, he actually read them, and that habit rubbed off on me. If that isn't strange enough, we also had a lot of maps, floor plans, architectural designs and engineering specs throughout the house. The smell of blueprint competed with mothballs in our rooms (and, at times, even on our clothing) because my mother lined all our cabinets, drawers and cupboards with the immaculate white side of blueprints from my father's engineering and architectural office. I would often turn to the blue side of the paper, read the print and look at the drawings with neither understanding nor comprehension. Later in life I would learn that maps could provide more information than the location of countries and capitals around the world. It is unfortunate that school did not encourage us to learn more from maps as we should.

My first encounter with antique prints and maps was in 1978 when my father and I entered a small antiquarian bookshop in Germany and he asked me to look out for old maps of the Philippines. I thought he had gone mad. Why go all the way to Europe to search for Philippine maps? When I see the astronomical prices of these early maps of Southeast Asia and the Philippines today, I regret having ignored my father's advice 24 years ago when these maps and prints were dirt cheap. Last week the Ateneo de Manila mounted a modest exhibit of early Philippine maps from the collection of Dr. Leovino Garcia. Ongoing at the Metropolitan Museum is another exhibition of early maps brought in by the Embassy of Portugal. While these exhibits cannot match in size and scope the Geronimo B. de los Reyes collection displayed in the GBR Museum in Cavite, or the collection of the Lopez Museum, just looking at these old maps provide insights into our past.

Mermaids, monsters and other fantastic creatures can be found on old maps. I have always been fascinated by the fanciful decorations on old maps—cherubs blowing different types of wind, squids large as galleons (not the *inihaw* type we have with beer), mermaids and mermen. Terrible giant fish that resemble nothing we know of today, spouting torrents of water or crashing into ships to devour sailors thrown overboard. We all know these things didn't exist, but in the 15th and 16th centuries, when the shape and form of the known world was unclear, when European explorers literally sailed in uncharted waters, much was left to the imagination. The voyages of Magellan and Columbus must have been what traveling to outer space is to our time. We have advanced technologically, but imagination still fills in the gap in our knowledge. Sci-fi provides other worlds and life forms to fill in our ignorance of space beyond our planet. Early maps of the Philippines reveal not just the evolving shape of the archipelago but also the mind-set of the cartographers, artists and explorers.

One of my favorite maps is a small version of the famous map by the Jesuit Murillo Velarde drawn by the 18th-century artist Francisco Suarez and engraved by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay, both Filipinos. On the lower portion of the Philippines, near Mindanao, is St. Francis Xavier. This is a reference to the legend that the great missionary had passed by the Philippines. At the feet of the saint is a crab holding a cross, again a reference to the story of the saint throwing a crucifix into the sea to calm a storm. According to the legend, when Francis Xavier went ashore at some island in Mindanao, a crab crawled up the beach carrying the crucifix he had earlier thrown into the sea. While none of these stories have any historical basis, they add interest to an otherwise dry map.

One of the maps I hope to see in my lifetime (I have only seen it in photographs), is an 18th-century map depicting the symbolic aspect of the Hispanic world. Drawn by the Filipino Laureano Atlas, the Spanish empire is depicted in the form of a beautiful young woman—Hispania—whose head is made up of Spain, the rest of the Spanish possessions a flowing piece of drapery over her body, and at her feet, resembling fashionable sandals, is the Philippine archipelago. Early maps of the Philippines revise our ideas about Ferdinand Magellan's so-called "discovery" of the Philippines for Spain in 1521. Magellan was Portuguese by birth. More importantly, the Philippines was literally put on the map not by Magellan or Spain but by Portuguese cartographers who had known of the Philippines even earlier than Magellan's ill-fated visit. These maps open our eyes to a bias in our early history that is based mostly on Spanish sources. While history records the Magellan Expedition (1521), the Loaysa Expedition (1526), the Saavedra Expedition (1527), the Villalobos Expedition (1543) and the Legazpi Expedition (1565), there is nothing on the Portuguese expeditions to the Philippines from their base in the Moluccas. Therefore, in the rewriting of our history it should be stressed that Magellan could not have "discovered" the Philippines because the islands were already inhabited, and that the Portuguese knew about the archipelago even before Magellan laid claim on it for Spain.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Who will be the first Filipino astronaut?

COMMENTARY

Art Villasanta

YES, I probably deserve to be shot for asking this "senseless" question.

And how could I even consider it in the midst of the crippling poverty destroying this nation; in the face of our never-ending political bickering; in the grip of bloody battles against Muslim and communist terrorists? Aren't these issues more important?

Of course they are.

But doesn't the Filipino deserve a chance to reach for the stars, literally and figuratively? Doesn't he deserve a chance to shine in a historic adventure?

The first Filipino in space will make us proud to be Filipino. Just by riding the US Space Shuttle or a Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS), he or she will become the proud symbol of the great and wonderful things our race can accomplish if it set its mind to it.

Japan is the only Asian nation to have consistently sent persons into space and this is courtesy of the Americans. Although Japan has its own space program, its new H-2A heavy lift launch vehicle isn't configured for manned space flight.

Dr. Mamoru Mohri was the first Japanese to travel into space aboard a Space Shuttle. He was a payload specialist on the STS (Space Transport Shuttle) Endeavor.

Mohri's historic trip 10 years ago lasted eight days (Sept. 12-20, 1992). He returned to outer space in February 2000, again as a crewman of the Endeavor.

In December 1997, Dr. Takao Doi became the first Japanese to walk in space. Koichi Wakata, a crewman on the STS Discovery in October 2000, was the first Japanese to visit the ISS.

All three are members of the astronaut corps of the National Space Development Agency of Japan (Nasda), that country's equivalent of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Are these feats possible for the, Filipino? Of course, they are.

The shrewd Russians might yet win the honor of taking the first Filipino into space, however. But the hefty Russian price tag of US$20 million (P1 billion!) for a round trip to the ISS will make us think again (as did Lance Bass' backers).

Our government however can try to convince the Russians to give us the ride gratis in the name of international friendship and cooperation.

If we go by the history of the US space program our first astronaut will most likely be a civilian, a degree holder in science or engineering, a possessor of special knowledge, a team player and one who is healthy, fit and English-speaking.

It would indeed be appropriate if our first astronaut could be a scientist or a technician. That would send a powerful message to the world that Filipinos aren't simply a race of exportable blue-collar workers.

There is no guarantee our first astronaut will be a he, however. He might be a she since women are about as tough as men are in space.

The first Filipino in space must be a natural born Filipino and not a Fil-Am. How can we call him a Filipino if he owns an American, Canadian or any other alien passport? I won't cheer for him. Will you?

It would be magnificent to see the Philippine flag on the uniform of our first astronaut as he is presented to the world press. It would be fantastic to see him floating weightless inside the ISS as he goes about his job, and to hear him greet us in Filipino and in our other dialects.

That would be the ultimate high in patriotism. The first Filipino astronaut in space would become a hero and deservedly so since the selection process that chose him was geared toward selecting the best possible.

There should be other Filipino astronauts in future earth orbit or interplanetary flights. They will be real-life heroes that the Filipino nation cannot have enough of.

How does the Philippines stand in space? Quite nobly considering her limited resources.

Although we have one in-orbit satellite, Agila-2, this spacecraft is one of the best Asian communications satellites. It mainly serves the interests of PLDT, its owner, but is taking on a steady stream of other Asian customers. Agila-2 has a useful life of 15 years. It carries C-band and Ku-band transponders that transmit voice, Internet, broadcast and data communications. It was launched into orbit by a Chinese rocket in 1997.

A second Philippine satellite might be orbited by 2005 but this one—to be called Destiny-1—will be owned by Destiny Satellite Corp., sister company of the cable firm. A second Destiny satellite is scheduled for orbit in 2007. DestinySat, however, says its plans hinge on the positive state of the world economy and on its signing up a strategic partner to share the burden of launching the satellites.

In Asia, China, India and Japan are the leading space powers but their space programs will be unable to ferry Filipino astronauts into space this decade. Asians, however, will have a lot to cheer about as China and India prepare to make history in the coming years.

In January 2003, China is set to orbit its fourth "Shenzhou" (Divine Vessel) spacecraft designed to carry persons into space. The success of this flight (after two successes and a failure) is expected to pave the way for China's first manned space mission by 2005.

China will thus become only the third nation after the United States and the former Soviet Union to have sent persons into space via its own space program. China says its "*yuhangyuans*" (astronauts) have been chosen and are undergoing intensive training at secret facilities.

China's ambitions extend beyond Earth orbiting spacecraft. China has announced plans to build its own manned space station and a fleet of space shuttles to ferry *yuhangyuans*, supplies and equipment to and from this station.

China intends to launch some 30 satellites from 2001 to 2005, the largest number by any Asian country. Since its space program began in the 1970s, China claims to have successfully launched 48 satellites with a success rate of 90 percent.

India has galactic ambitions far more majestic than China. India plans to send unmanned probes to the moon beginning 2007. The Indian Space Research Organization (Isro), India's Nasa, believes it can launch a small 275-kg satellite on a fly-by moon mission and might orbit a 140-kg satellite to conduct scientific experiments and study the moon's core.

Isro's confidence rests on the latest successes of its carrier rockets: the Polar Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the heavy-lift Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Isro says that its moon probes will be launched by PSLVs, its workhorse vehicles for commercial launches. Isro chai Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, notes that India has all the necessary means available to launch a lunar mission. India's space exploration program has been carried out since 1972.

An even grander plan calls for a moon landing by Indians in the next decade. The 13th and 14th men on the moon may well be Indians.

If realized, India will become only the second nation to have set foot on the moon. More Indians might set foot on the moon, perhaps including the first woman on the moon.

Now what is the Filipino word for astronaut?

Art Villasanta writes about Asian satellites, satellite operators and launch vehicles for a weekly website about Asia's satellite industry. He is also a Philippine correspondent for telecom magazines based in Hong Kong.

Fernando's almost impossible mission

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is a brave man tasked to accomplish a mission that is almost impossible. His daunting job to instill and implement discipline and order is now being opposed with vigor. He wants to do away with the misguided thought that sidewalks are for vendors and streets are for pedestrians. Not a senator, not a congressman has dared to support him openly in his mission, for fear of provoking the ire of vendors and "informal residents" thus, losing their votes come election time.

The bare truth is that we Filipinos seem to abhor and disdain discipline. Discipline brought prosperity to Japan, Korea, China and Germany. Prosperity is something that will elude us because we do not have discipline. Similarly, the seasonal rhetoric on reviving the Pasig River has become monotonous. Without discipline, not in a thousand years, nor all the invited consultants, nor all the money in the world can save the Pasig River, unless we can educate and discipline ourselves to refrain from dumping our garbage into the river.

The main stumbling block that will derail the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways are the informal residents along the tracks who are coddled by politicians. Discipline is the key and that we do not have.

There is so much pressure on Fernando that he may just have to wilt in defeat. He is alone in a den of lions. He may even be a target for assassination. Even President Macapagal-Arroyo may be forced to restrain or even dump him for fear of losing the 2004 elections. Anarchy will just not allow Fernando to make our cities a better place to live in. Politicians will hinder the conquest of anarchy. Without discipline, we will always be a Third World country.

—VICTOR MURILLO,
658 Maharlika St., Plainview
1550, Mandaluyong City

September instead of June start of the school year?

AT THE 2002 National Education Congress held at the Manila Hotel on Oct. 3, 2002, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus told reporters that he is considering the proposal of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel to move the opening of classes from June to September.

It seems to me that both De Jesus and Pimentel are killjoys. April is the month of outings and excursions. Besides, it is uncomfortable for students because most of the schools, both public and private, are poorly ventilated. Also, the month of May is the merriest, because of the month-long religious rites known as the Flores de Mayo. The month showcases the way Filipinos preserve a cultural tradition handed down by our forefathers.

If the school year starts in September, then July and August will be the school vacation.

Some 40 years ago, former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces attempted to move the beginning of the school year to September but Sen. Jose W. Diokno opposed the plan successfully.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St., Parang,
Marikina City

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Coslap not to be abolished

THIS is to correct the news that the Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems (Coslap) is one of those agencies to be abolished. Contrary to this, Coslap will not be deactivated/abolished.

In the recent Cabinet meeting wherein the issue regarding the so-called abolition of government agencies was discussed, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor defended the existence and importance of Coslap. Montemayor, when he was still a congressman representing the peasant sector, emphasized that the problems of peace and order, particularly insurgency, are rooted not so much in poverty but accompanied by a feeling of injustice, especially social injustice.

Therefore the role of the Department of Justice, particularly Coslap, is vital to a long-lasting and sustainable solution to the problem of insurgency and the problem of peace and order in our country. Apparently convinced of the arguments advanced by Perez and Montemayor, Coslap will no longer be deactivated.

We would like to assure the public, particularly our clients and the party litigants of the cases we are handling that Coslap is still very active and will receive, hear and decide cases brought to it regarding land problems.

Since Coslap is an administrative agency vested with quasi-judicial powers and functions, the rules of procedure in Coslap are simple and do not dwell on technicality. No docket fees are paid and the presence of lawyers is not mandatory.

—ERNESTO A. CARDIÑO,
commissioner, Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems,
3/F DOJ Agencies Bldg.,
NIA Road, Diliman,
Quezon City

Where are the cheap medicines?

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should better double-check the accuracy of her television advertisements especially the one about the availability of fast transportation and cheap medicines. She should find out for herself because her own credibility and that of the government will suffer in the minds of millions of Filipinos who know the actual situation.

For instance, it is not wholly true that our government hospitals are supplied with cheap medicines. We know that for a fact because our office has been refering our indigent patients to these hospitals under our medical assistance program. One of these hospitals is the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center which was specifically mentioned in the advertisement. Although we have allocated funds for these patients in these hospitals to defray the costs of their treatment which includes the purchase of medicines, they are forced to buy them from the drug stores because the medicines are not available inside. For this reason, during interviews with these patients, the President's television advertisements become the butt of jokes, and they go home to the province to narrate their bad experience.

When the government says cheap medicines are available in these hospitals, our people expect that this is true. And when they find it to be untrue the advertisements only tend to worsen their misery and frustration.

—RAMON M. GUTIERREZ,
S-408, House of Representatives,
Quezon City

Premarital sex and the young

WILL premarital sex strengthen a relationship? Considering the reasons why young couples engage in premarital sex, the act only reflects self-love rather than love for the other. Many youths (especially those who engage in premarital sex) may not accept this. But this is the truth. They continue with a sexual relationship so they can keep their loved ones. They will say that it's their love for the other that makes premarital sex inevitable.

A recent countrywide survey conducted among high school and college students showed about 18 percent have had premarital sexual experience, 26 percent of them boys and 10 percent girls who (1) give in to peer pressure—"everyone is doing it,"(2) believe the act is a show of undying love and loyalty, and (3) are afraid that if they don't, the partner will stray and look for somebody "who will go all the way."

As Christians who see our sexuality as a wondrous gift from God, we pray that our young friends truly understand that working on a relationship is like building on this gift—block by block they appreciate and nurture it, building a foundation that will stand and last for individuals who commit themselves to much more than the passion of the moment.

—BEATRICE ALVAREZ, MARINEL SANTANDER, 78 Vista Verde Ave.,
Vista Verde Executive Village,
Cainta, Rizal

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i. Zamboanga City

Prospective bidders should have at least three (3) years of experience on the Preventive Maintenance of MGE brand of UPS and has adequate certified personnel, tools and equipment to perform the required services.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P5,500,500 (for 5 years)
Term of Contract	Five (5) years
Source of Funding	M/R Building - Maintenance & Repair

3. Comprehensive Maintenance of fifty (50) units Merlin Gerin, 3KVA UPS Pulsar Model CSX30 installed at the SSS Branches nationwide.

Prospective bidders should have at least three (3) years of experience on the Preventive Maintenance of MGE brand of UPS and has adequate certified personnel, tools and equipment to perform the required services.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P4,813,055.75 (for 5 years)
Term of Contract	Five (5) years
Source of Funding	M/R Building - Maintenance & Repair

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for item#1, P5,000.00 for item#2 & P1,000.00 for item#3. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. Below are the deadlines for the submission of eligibility documents:

Item No.	Deadline
1	October 30, 2002
2	November 05, 2002
3	November 05, 2002

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever thaty may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.
Senior Vice President
and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 16, 2002)

Bin Laden hails Kuwait, Yemen attacks

DUBAI—The world's most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, on Monday reportedly praised the perpetrators of last week's anti-Western attacks in Kuwait and Yemen and warned the United States and Israel in a statement of more carnage to come.

The statement, faxed to Qatar's Jazeera television and carried by Jazeera and at least one Islamist Web site (www.islammemo.com), could be the first conclusive proof that the Saudi-born militant had survived last year's US-led military campaign in Afghanistan.

Washington struck Afghanistan to flush out Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, its key suspects in last year's Sept. 11 hijacked plane attacks on New York and Washington.

The typed text also blasted the United States for planning to strike Iraq and accused Washington of trying to rob Arab nations of their "riches," particularly crude oil.

"We congratulate the Muslim nation for the daring and heroic jihad (holy war) operations which our brave sons conducted in Yemen against the Christian oil tanker and in Kuwait against the American occupation and aggression forces," it said.

"By striking the oil tanker in Yemen with explosives, the attackers struck at the umbilical cord of the Christians, reminding the enemy of the bloody price they have to pay for continuing their aggression against our nation," it added.

The text, which Jazeera said bore bin Laden's signature, was referring to last Tuesday's attack on US troops training on a Kuwaiti island which killed one Marine and to the Oct. 6 blast which gutted the French-flagged tanker Limburg in the Gulf of Aden, killing one crewman.

The statement made no mention of the weekend bomb attack which killed 190 people, mostly young Westerners, on the resort island of Bali and which Indonesia and other nations have linked to al-Qaida.

Kuwait has blamed Tuesday's shooting on a local militant cell indirectly linked to al-Qaida while Yemen, home to many Islamic militants and suspected al-Qaida members, said it was convinced the supertanker had been deliberately struck.

"We renew our promise to God, and to the nation, and our promise to the Americans and Jews that they will not be at peace and should not dream of security until they let our nations be and stop their aggression and support for our enemies," the statement added.

"The priority in this war at this stage must be against the infidels, the Americans and the Jews... who will not stop infringing upon us except through jihad," it added.

Bin Laden regards the United States as the key enemy of Muslims for what he calls bias toward Israel and for having a military presence in Muslim countries such as his homeland Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam.

The statement called on Muslims to unite and unleash what it called their countries' substantial military and economic capabilities against the United States.

Reuters

Iraqis pledge to defend Saddam to the death

BAGHDAD—Amid vows to defend President Saddam Hussein to the death, Iraqis cast ballots in a nationwide presidential referendum on Tuesday assured to be declared a landslide victory for Iraq's strongman.

The authorities urged voters to turn out in force to show massive support for Saddam in the face of US threats of military action and President George W. Bush's declared desire to remove the Iraqi leader from power.

"With our blood and souls we defend Saddam Hussein," supporters chanted at a polling station in central Baghdad as voters lined up to cast their vote. "All Iraq calls, Saddam is the pride of my nation," others shouted.

"This is Iraq, and this is the people of Iraq," Saddam's top deputy Izzat Ibrahim told reporters at the polling station. "How will America fight this great people? How much will America lose and for what reason?"

Ibrahim, vice chair of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, said the American people were being misled by the Bush administration.

"What is America's interest in fighting Iraq? It is the evil ideas of the American administration," he said.

Merely an hour into the referendum, Saddam's supporters were celebrating victory, dancing outside polling stations in the capital and bringing sheep to slaughter, a traditional Arab act of celebration.

"I voted a big Yes to Saddam and a big No to Bush," voter Mohammad Khalil said. "No one can tell us who our leader should or shouldn't be. We want Saddam Hussein." Polls opened at 8 a.m. Nearly 12 million Iraqis are eligible to answer a simple "Yes" or "No" for a new seven-year term for Saddam, the man who has ruled Iraq for 23 years through the tight grip of the military and police.

Voting ends at 8 p.m. with official results expected on Wednesday.

But the result is a forgone conclusion with the voting process tightly controlled by the authorities and with no independent observers or other candidates.

Saddam won 99.96 percent in a first referendum in 1995.

Officials say privately they want an even higher percentage this time, with some hoping for a perfect 100 percent "Yes" result.

"Iraq's unified voice declaring...yes, yes to the leader Saddam Hussein deafens small Bush and officials of his evil administration," al-Jumhuriya state newspaper said in an editorial.

There was no sign of Saddam but Iraqi television showed live pictures of Ibrahim casting a ballot at a Baghdad school-turned-polling station.

Reuters

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Woman killed in Virginia; sniper angle being probed

FALLS CHURCH, Virginia—A woman was shot in the head and killed as she and her husband loaded packages into their car outside a Home Depot store in suburban Washington. Police were investigating whether it was the latest shooting by a sniper already blamed for eight deaths in the past 12 days.

Police swiftly closed down highways in the area, about 16 km west of the nation's capital, creating massive gridlock as they searched for a van from which the shooter might have fired.

Fairfax County Police Chief Tom Manger said authorities were on the lookout for a cream-colored Chevy Astro van that was missing a left rear tail light and had a silver roof ladder. Virginia State Police said the van was last seen traveling east on Route 50 from Falls Church. Interstates 66 and I-95 are nearby.

Witnesses at some of the earlier shootings also reported seeing a white or cream-colored van or truck.

The woman was felled by a single shot about 9:15 p.m. Monday, authorities said. All the other deaths in the sniper spree were also caused by one shot, and two people also were wounded by a single bullet.

The Maryland task force investigating the sniper attacks was conferring with Fairfax County authorities to see if Monday's victim was the sniper's ninth.

"It's too early to tell at this time (if the shooting is linked), however, we are working it and investigating it with that potential in mind," Manger said.

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"More than anything else, I wished I was outside so I could identify this guy," one woman who had been stuck inside the Home Depot home improvement store as authorities closed it told CNN. "I am used to seeing blood, but this amount of blood shocked me."

The Home Depot is located in the Seven Corners Shopping Center, a 40,500-sq.-m strip shopping center with a parking garage.

Monday's killing occurred at one of northern Virginia's busiest intersections, where major arteries come together to form seven corners. Clint Van Zandt, a former FBI profiler who lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, said the location sets the slaying apart from the others.

"This is not bold, this is brazen," he said. "It's a much more highly congested area, even under the cover of darkness." *AP*

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Reuters

Belfast gov't suspended

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AFP

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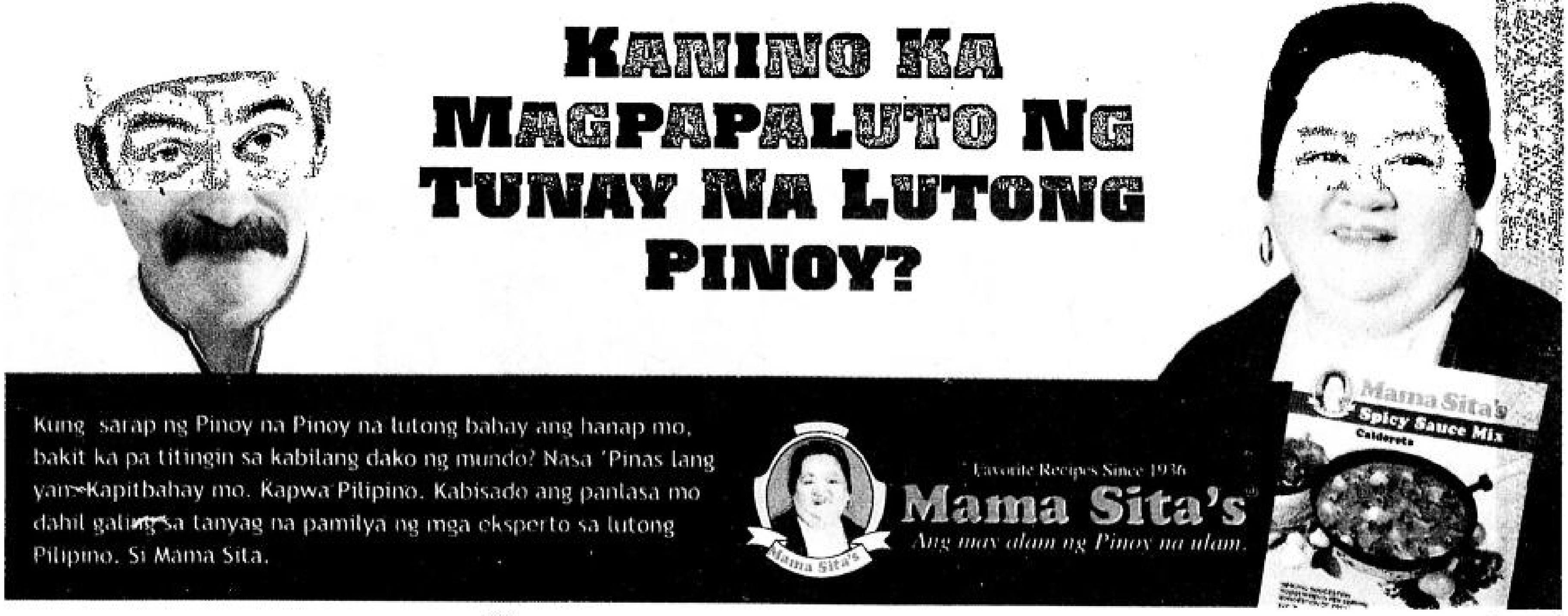

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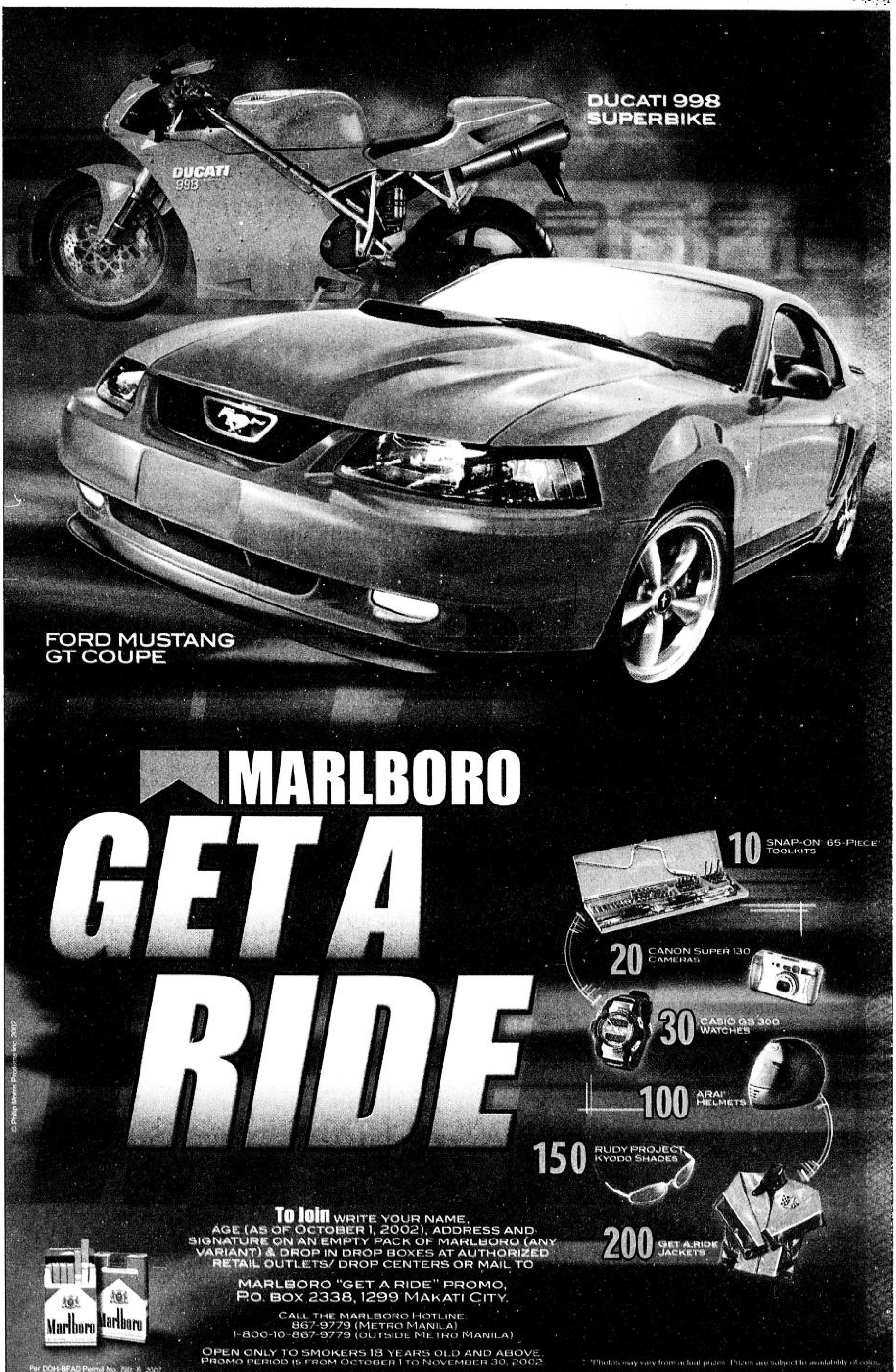

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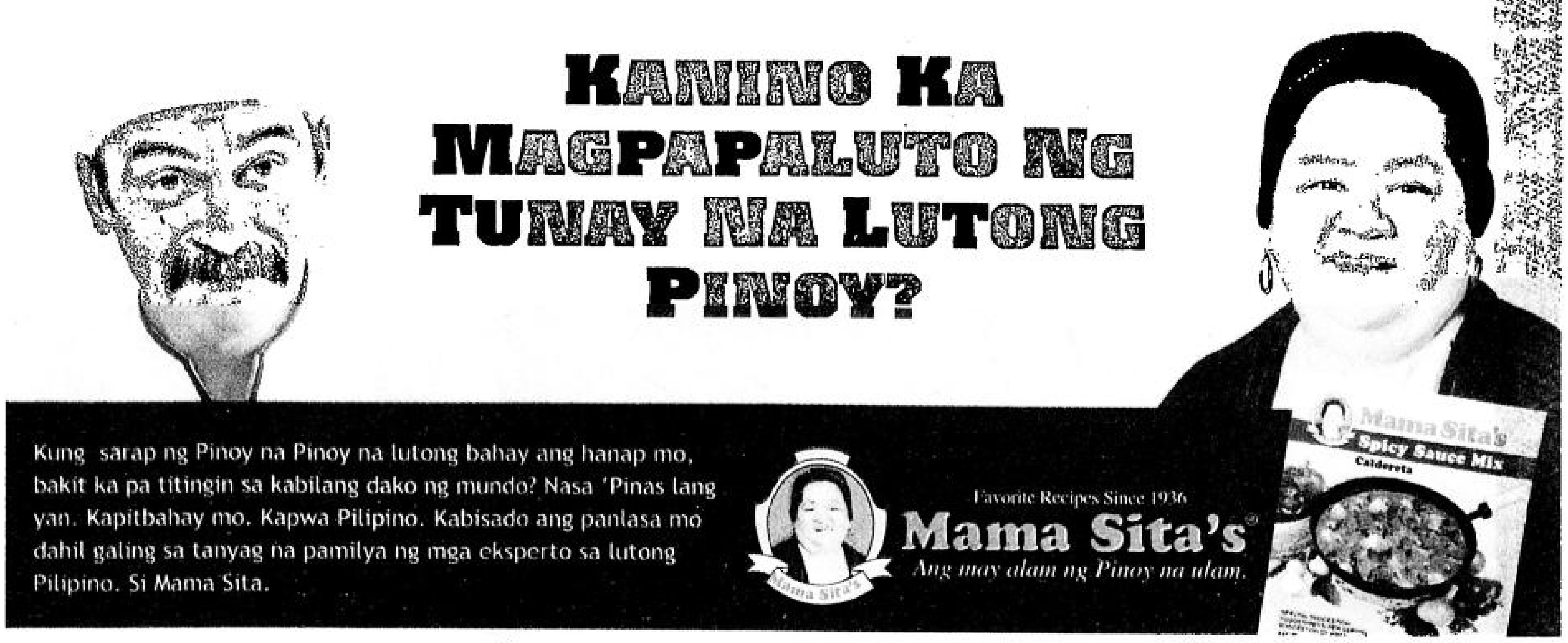
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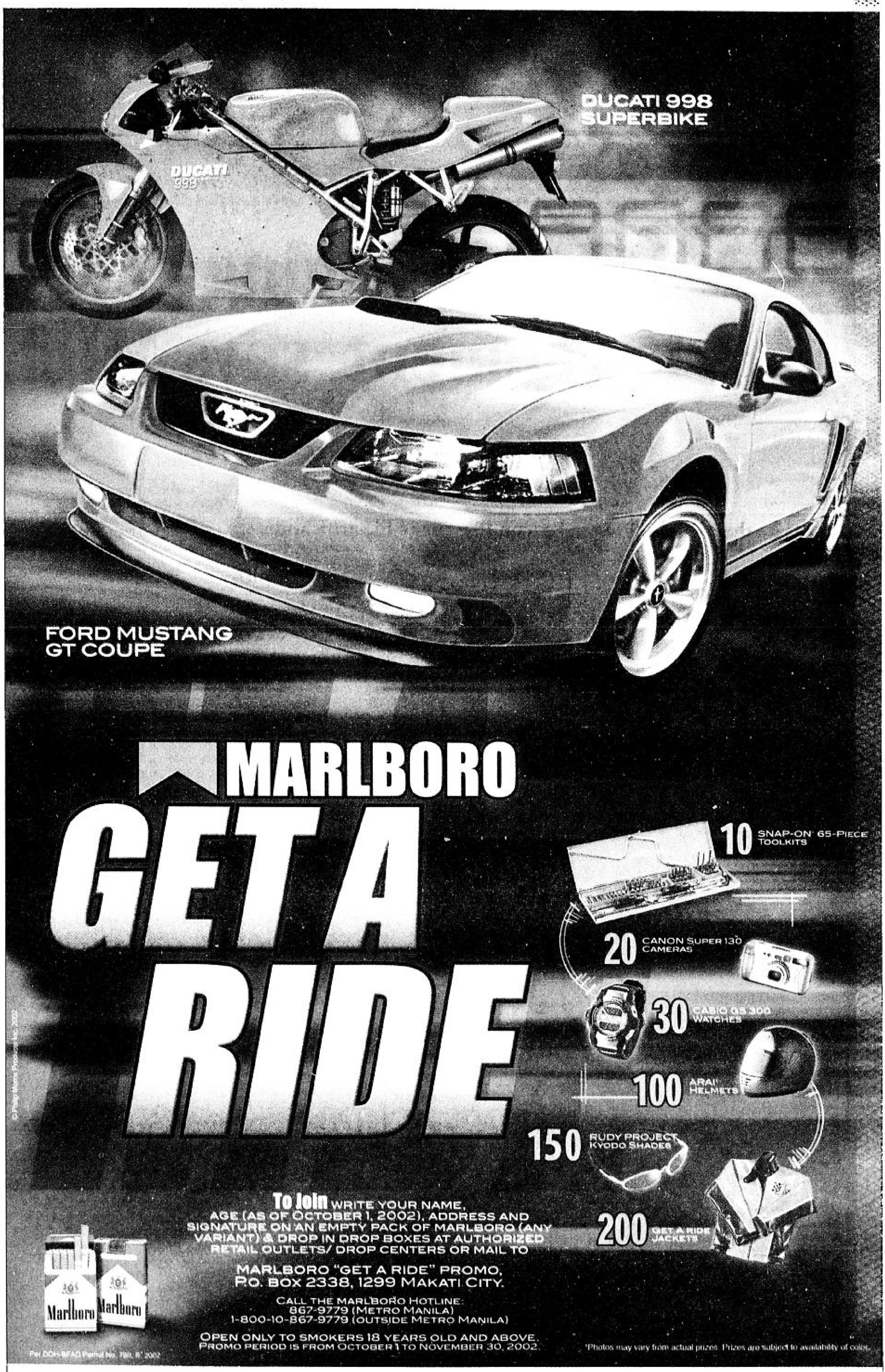

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Group monitors peace accord

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Peace Advocates of Negros (PAN) has vowed to closely monitor the implementation of the confidence building measures between the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-P/RPA-ABB).

"We want to make sure that no anti-people acts are committed such as harassment and intimidation, especially of people in the countryside," said Delia Locsin of the PAN.

Complaints

If there were complaints on the implementation, she said her group would immediately raise the matter to the Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee (JEMC), a five-member body tasked to monitor and oversee the enforcement of the provisions of the agreement.

The PAN is a multi-sectoral group composed of representatives of the academe, professional sector and some non-government organizations. The group works closely with Bacolod Diocese.

On Monday, government and the RPMP-RPA-ABB representatives adopted the general rules and procedures in the implementation of the peace agreement and the conduct of meetings of the JEMC.

Start of talks

This signaled the start of the formal peace talks between the two sides, said Arturo Tabara, RPM-P chairman.

"Should the talks go well, the final phase will be an agreement on the disposition of forces," he said.

In a joint statement, both parties agreed, among others, to refrain from committing acts of aggression and/or antagonism as well as actions that would violate people's basic rights.

The JEMC would also formulate the mechanics for the release of the P10 million "reintegration fund" for RPA-ABB members and of around 235 alleged political prisoners.

Special permits to carry firearms would also be granted to 100 members RPMP-RPA-ABB.

Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, JEMC chair, earlier said RPA-ABB rebels, who were not covered with permit to carry firearms, would be apprehended.

SOLDIERS secure an area during the visit of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes in Zamboanga City on Sunday to oversee the operations against Muslim rebels.

AP

AFP sabotaging peace agreement, says MILF

By Grace Cantal-Albasin, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has accused the military of sabotaging the peace agreement it signed with the government on Aug. 7, 2001 when it launched a "pre-emptive" attack against terrorists hiding in MILF camps.

The military should have lodged its complaints before the joint ceasefire monitoring committee if indeed the MILF was harboring some Abu Sayyaf members including Isnilon Hapilon and three foreign terrorists, said spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

"They should have filed a complaint so that we could have acted on their allegations and apprehended these terrorists," he said.

Kabalu accused the military of making up scenarios to condition the mind of the people for a possible declaration of war against the group.

"There was no provocative incident (from) the MILF for the military to carry out its attack on the areas," he said.

About 3,000 residents have been evacuated to Malabang and Marawi, Lanao del Sur, Gov. Mamintal Adiong told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. The others were brought to other parts of Lanao del Norte.

Adiong appealed to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and to the national government to help the evacuees.

In Sultan Naga Dimaporo, about 97 families have been evacuated as the military launched its attack in Sultan Gumander and Pualas towns in Lanao del Sur and Nunungan in Lanao del Norte over the weekend.

A communiqué jointly signed by the MILF and government panel members on May 6 stated that both camps would work together in the fight against terror groups in Mindanao.

Kabalu said it was "too shallow" for the military to launch an attack on the basis of reports that the MILF has been harboring terrorists. It was a waste of government funds, he added.

Kabalu belied Defensor's claim that it was a pre-emptive ground attack saying there is no ground movement yet since the military is undergoing air assault to "pulverize the areas" before a ground attack is launched.

He said he has not received reports that MILF rebels have died or have been injured in the attack. He, however, said that about 17 soldiers including Moro National Liberation Front integrees have died while many others were wounded.

He said the government should not blame the MILF if it fights back.

"We are on defensive grounds here and we are left with no other choice but to shoot back," Kabalu said.

At least four battalions of Army soldiers were sent to Sultan Gumander, Nunungan and Pualas towns over the weekend, he said. "The military launched a three-pronged attack on the MILF communities in those towns since Saturday," he said.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said he has instructed Col. Romeo Calizo, chair of the ceasefire committee of the government, to activate the Local Monitoring Team in Lanao del Sur and look into the matter.

"The intention of the military is on the pre-emptive strike against these armed group from Sulu, that is their mission and not on the MILF, but I am still validating on this for we could not disrupt the peace process with the MILF," Dureza told the INQUIRER.

Last month, a press conference in Iligan City on the arrest of four Abu Sayyaf leaders allegedly hiding in Lanao del Sur, was called off as the military claimed that it continued its operations against the bandit group.

In July, Ms Macapagal said the US has taken off the MILF from the list of terror groups.

Vasectomy campaign intensified in Pangasinan

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Under the mango trees or inside grade school classrooms, village men of eastern Pangasinan towns are learning that vasectomy does not make them lose their manhood and will not turn them into homosexual or cause them to lose their enjoyment of sex.

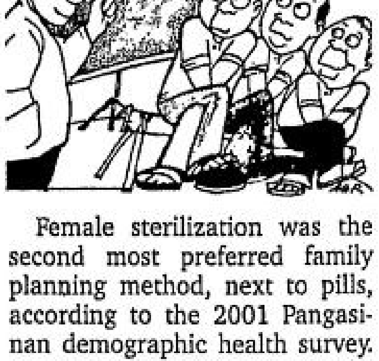
The provincial population office (PPO) here has been conducting an information campaign on non-scalpel vasectomy (NSV) among members of barangay councils and people's organizations in Binalonan, Villasis and Laoac towns and Urdaneta City.

This is part of the move to involve more men in family planning and reproductive health (FPRH), Luzviminda Muego, provincial population officer, said.

Aside from providing information, the program is also meant to enlist the support of barangay officials in the dissemination of NSV in their barangays, she said.

At present, the FPRH is a responsibility of women, with most men even discouraging their wives from using family planning methods.

In Pangasinan, government hospitals have recorded that only four men have undergone vasectomy compared to 17,560 women who have undergone sterilization since 1997.



Female sterilization was the second most preferred family planning method, next to pills, according to the 2001 Pangasinan demographic health survey. Vasectomy was way down in the list.

"But men's attitude is changing," Henry Melido, a PPO trainer said. "More men will change their attitude if they understand (the FPRH). Actually, most men, who attended the training, have reached the desired number of children already but they still want to avail of the method."

The NSV, a permanent family planning method, targets couples who no longer want any children. It is a simple and painless surgical procedure performed within 10-15 minutes by a trained and certified doctor. The man can go home a few minutes after the operation.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

7 die in road accident

COTABATO CITY—At least seven people were killed when the GI truck they were riding in plunged into a deep ravine in Barangay Kabog-kabog in Upi, Maguindanao on Monday. Reports said the truck's brake system had malfunctioned as it was negotiating a downhill curve. Dante Opam, one of the surviving passengers, said the fatalities were pinned to death when the truck rolled over them. At least seven others, including Opam, were taken to the hospital.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

More troops urged

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras has requested for additional Army troops to beef up security in the northern part of the province amid reports that police stations in the first district would be attacked by communist guerrillas after the August 27 ambush in Guihulngan, which killed the police chief of Vallehermoso and his driver. Guihulngan, Paras' hometown, hosts the 66th Infantry Battalion, which has its headquarters in barangay McKinley. Gov. George Arnaiz told police to be on constant alert even as he assured that Negros Oriental is still relatively peaceful, compared to other provinces in the country.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bohol needs lawyers

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado has requested Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to deputize 10 lawyers to assist in the prosecution of cases involving violations of environmental laws. Aumentado noted that the limitation of the Provincial Prosecutors Office (PPO) to handle such cases is compounded by the decentralization of the Regional Trial Courts. Three of the 10 RTC branches in Bohol are found in Talibon, Carmen and Loay towns, which are far from Tagbilaran City where the public prosecutors are based. The governor also noted that the PPO handles the prosecution of criminal cases in 22 municipal circuit trial courts distributed in different parts of the province.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

War hero killed in fire

DUMAGUETE CITY—A decorated war hero was killed in a dawn fire on Monday in Tanjay City, Negros Oriental. Firefighters found the body of retired Col. Galicano Sibala, 83, beneath the rubble of his house at about 5 a.m. on Monday, about two hours after the fire started. Fire investigators said they believed that an overheated electric thermos triggered the fire. Sibala usually slept alone in his house after two of his children who lived with him left for the US last month. Sibala was the overall commander of the guerrilla forces in Negros Occidental during Word War II.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Corominas, 62

CEBU CITY—Board Member Andres Corominas succumbed to liver cirrhosis on Oct. 13. He was 62. Reports said Corominas was rushed to the Visayas Community Medical Center on Sunday morning after he complained of headache. He died in the evening. Capitol officials and employees remembered Corominas, who owned a bus company, for never failing to attend the flag ceremonies and for wearing slippers or sandals when reporting for work. He is survived by his wife, Dulce and six children. Internment was set on Sunday. ***Rianne C. Tecson, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Soldier wounded in clash

CEBU CITY—A soldier was wounded in a clash between Army troops and suspected members of the New People's Army on Oct. 11 in the mountain village of San Roque, Barangay Bali-ang, Danao City, 33 kilometers north of here. Pfc. Teddy Kim Cainta, 20, of Hinigaran, Negros Occidental, suffered a bullet wound in the stomach. Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, commander of the 78th Infantry Battalion based in northern Cebu, said some 70 soldiers were sent to Bali-ang about midnight of Thursday after they confirmed the rebels' presence in the village. Bali-ang councilman Gaudioso Molina said heavy gunfire began at around 4 a.m. on Friday and lasted for 40 minutes.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Quezon sawmill padlocked

LUCENA CITY—Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez padlocked late last month a sawmill in Barangay Kiloloron, Real, Quezon suspected of using illegally sourced logs after an aerial survey conducted at the length of the Umiray River in Laguna-Quezon boundary. During the survey, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources team led by Alvarez found bundles of 30 to 40-foot lauan logs, each measuring at least 70 centimeters in diameter being transported along the river. Each bundle reportedly had about 30-50 pieces of decades-old logs. The secretary ordered Quezon Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Armando Rutaquio to secure the sawmill premises and issue orders for the confiscation of the logs and lumber, the equipment and vehicles, amounting to P12 million, allegedly used in illegal activities.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Unicef donations

The United Nations Children's Fund turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development medicines, school materials, toys, and other basic supplies for thousands of children deported from Malaysia. The bulk of the goods, worth P674,700.00, were sent to Bongao in Tawi-Tawi, where the government has set up a centralized processing and reception center for the deportees. "The needs of the deportees are urgent, and UNICEF is committed to ensure that children in crises situations receive special assistance," said Terrel Hill, Unicef Country Representative in a press release.

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Heavy metals pollute Bohol river—DENR

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) has found that the Abatan River in Cortes town, Bohol is highly polluted with both cadmium and lead.

Documents gathered during a study by the Process Foundation in Bohol and the EMB-7 show that the Abatan River contained cadmium that was 170 times higher than the reference value for unpolluted water. The river also contains lead that is 80 times higher than the reference value, according to the documents.

The study, funded by the German Development Services, was presented at the Wregent Hotel on Oct. 10.

The heavy metals were found one kilometer seaward from the mouth of Abatan River, the study revealed.

This indicates a long-term pollution of the seawater caused by repeated discharges of cadmium and lead coming from the Abatan River, the documents showed.

The concentration of cadmium in fish from the Abatan River is 18 times higher than the German standard, while cadmium concentration in oyster is 13 times higher, according to the document.

Using the same German standard, the study noted that lead concentration in both fish and oyster from the river is eight times.

Taking into account the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for cadmium, the documents said a daily consumption of 80 grams of oyster or 106 grams of fish from Abatan exceeds the WHO guidelines for a maximum of .5 milligrams weekly cadmium uptake.

The WHO's tolerable weekly uptake for lead is only 3 mg weekly, meaning a daily consumption of 105 grams of oyster or fish already exceeds the standard.

Accumulation of cadmium in liver and kidneys can cause acute health effects such as vomiting, disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, liver disorders and cramps.

Chronic health effects include decrease of the sense of smell, yellow-colored teeth, anemia, and back pain with damages to the bone marrow as a long-term effect.

The accumulation of lead in the human body can affect the skeleton, liver, kidneys and other organs including the heart, brain and lungs.

The study did not directly identify the source of the cadmium and lead concentration in the Abatan river that transcends the towns of Cortes, Antequera, Balilihan and Maribojoc.

6,000 sacks of smuggled rice seized in Zamboanga

PAGADIAN CITY—Soldiers on Saturday morning seized some 6,000 sacks of smuggled rice from Vietnam unloaded from a commercial vessel in Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay.

But crewmen of MV Caroline managed to sail off, carrying some 12,000 sacks of smuggled rice before soldiers of the 51st Infantry Battalion arrived at the old logpond in Sitio Margal, Barangay Pamintayan in Buug.

Col. Ignacio Obligacion, chief of the 51st IB, said the vessel arrived Friday afternoon in Sitio Margal escorted by three policemen led by a certain Insp. Nasser Halil and PO1s Hayda Bataraza and Luciano Marquez, all assigned with the PNP regional command in Zamboanga City.

Halil reportedly attempted to bribe the raiding soldiers led by Lt. Danilo Ambe with one bundle of P500 bills estimated at P50,000.

Obligacion said his men turned down the offer and were planning to file criminal charges against the three policemen.

Obligacion said the smuggled rice was owned by a certain Hadji Naguib of Jolo.

A team of soldiers is also guarding two big warehouses, one in Barangay Labrador and another in Poblacion Buug, where about 5,000 sacks of smuggled rice are kept.

Obligacion said they have already applied before a local court in Buug for the issuance of a search-and-seizure order. "Our soldiers are guarding these two warehouses to prevent those involved from sneaking them out." *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mass grave found in Mindoro

LUCENA CITY—A mass grave of three former New People's Army rebels who were allegedly killed by their comrades on suspicion of being spies and traitors were found by the military on Monday in the remote villages of Villa Cervesa and Acatel in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro.

A report reaching Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, said the skeletal remains were positively identified by a witness as belonging to Ka Abling, alleged vice commander of the regional Yunit Gerilya; Ka Nards, member of Sandatahang Yunit Propaganda South; and a certain Ka Daniel.

The report said the three were former members of the dreaded NPA Melito Glor Command that operates in the Southern Tagalog Region.

Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, said the witness, whom he declined to identify for security reason, revealed that Ka Abling was one of the killers of renegade rebel-turned-military asset Hector Mabilangan.

Mabilangan, who used to head the NPA's Red Scorpion Gang, was murdered sometime in the early '90s in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

The three victims were also allegedly responsible for the ambush of at least eight policemen two years ago in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, said the report.

The skeletal remains were all in advanced state of decomposition and have fractured skulls as shown by the video footages taken by the soldiers. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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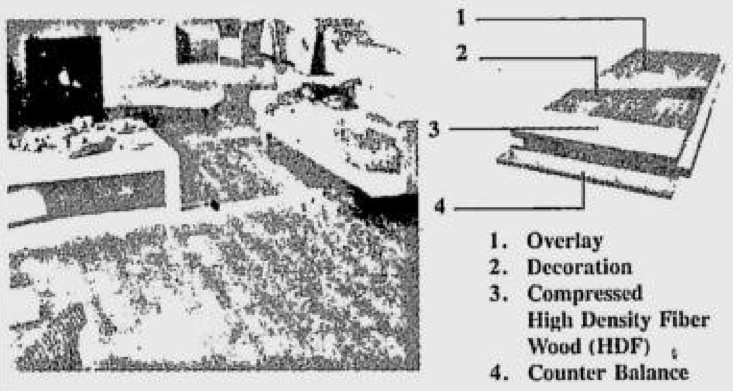

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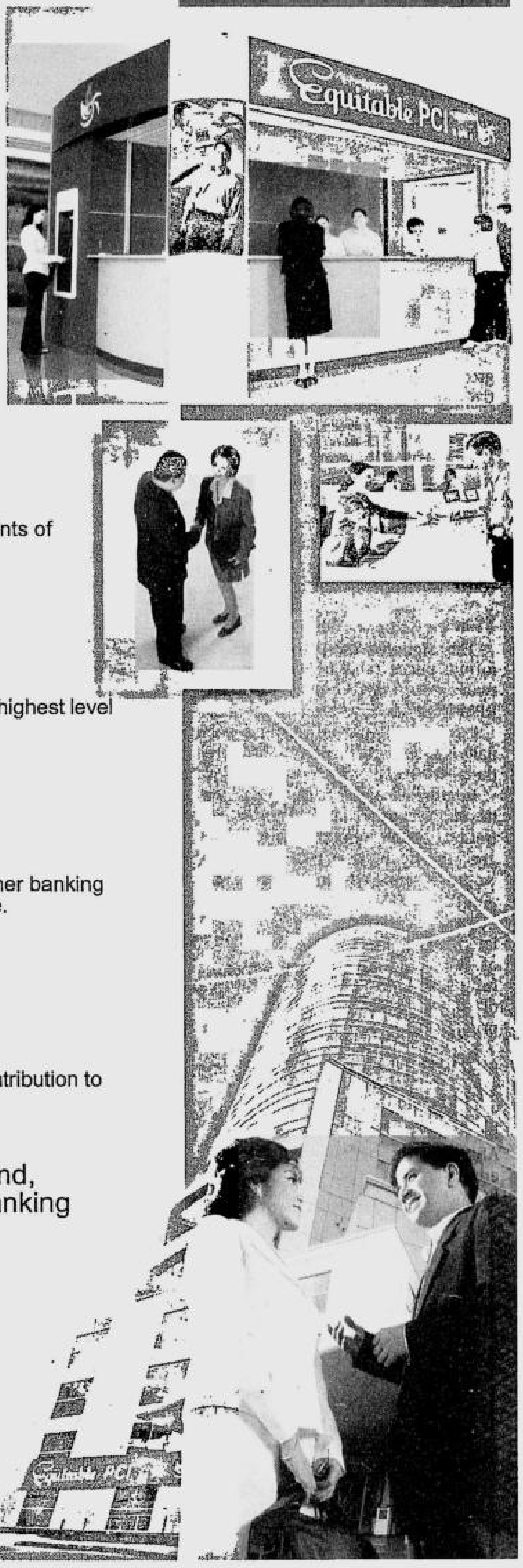

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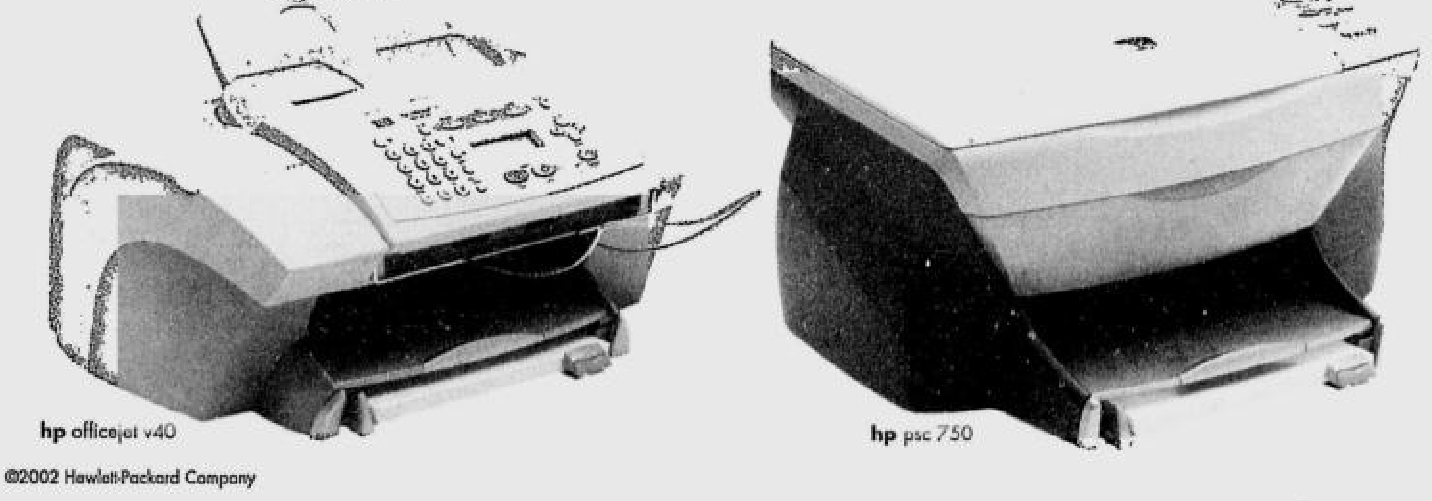

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◈ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

A 'sleeping giant' waiting to be tapped

By Jo Clemente
Mangatarem, Pangasinan

SITE of the multibillion-peso San Roque dam project in San Manuel, Pangasinan

PDI PHOTO

THE SAN Roque multipurpose dam project (SRMDP) in San Manuel, Pangasinan, so much like China's Three Gorges project, has yet to overcome a host of controversies that surrounds it even as it promises the generation of 991 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of power yearly.

So, too, with the 1,200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired Sual power plant and the attendant environmental constraints it has allegedly caused.

Even as both power projects are located in Pangasinan and despite their "bigness," not one can exactly solve the power problems of the province's other towns.

A case in point is Mangatarem's unstable power supply that affects local commerce.

Mangatarem is Pangasinan's backdoor and part of a long lonely corridor that links western Tarlac to its southwestern borders and to the northern tip of Zambales. A third of its land area is flat land and the rest is rolling hills and mountainous areas walled by Zambales' mountain ranges.

There are no fastfood chains, commercial banks, shopping malls, cinemas or a semblance of modern commercial presence in the town. But behind the bamboo curtains that cloak it from the national highway is a robust agriculture that has sustained its people for decades.

The town has large mango plantations but their produce must be shipped out quickly because there are no plants to process them.

Positive balance

Its municipal coffers are probably one of a few with a positive balance in its books. Aida Gonzales, Mangatarem budget officer, said the town could sustain its operations even if the release of their Internal Revenue Allotment came late because they managed their resources well.

Still, Mangatarem is a "sleeping giant" waiting to be tapped.

Noel Vergara, municipal planning and development coordinator, said that aside from the perennial floods, electric power is one major concern of his town.

While all of its 82 barangays are provided energy and only 20 percent of its 12,000 households remain power-less, the town suffers from unstable voltage. This is something that has to be corrected so the town can move on to agro-industrial ventures and bring full potential to its 36,856 hectares of land, Vergara said.

Long before Republic Act No. 7156 or the Mini-hydroelectric Power Incentives Act was passed, Mangatarem had already pushed for the establishment of at least two mini-hydro power projects in the area, local officials said. These are the Pila mini-hydroelectric project and the Baracbac mini-hydroelectric project.

The Pila project is a run-of-the-river type of development with an installed capacity of 6.24 MW and annual energy generation of 18.64 GWh. Its catchment area or dam site, however, will be in Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

The project will cost P214.38 million, including the construction of access roads.

The municipal government, according to Vergara, has been pushing for the project and is looking for possible investors.

On the other hand, the Baracbac project was mothballed when the task of overseeing mini-hydro projects was transferred during the Aquino administration from the National Electrification Administration to the Department of Energy.

Located in Barangay Malabobo in Mangatarem, Baracbac has an estimated average annual net energy generation of 5.04 GWh. The project will cost P50 million, according to a study by the NEA.

In both projects, power distribution will still be done by the Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative (Cenpelco), the current power distributor in the area.

Lorenzo Tapil, NEA technical assistant assigned to Cenpelco, said the Baracbac project was already being implemented when it was shelved. In fact, the equipment have been delivered and are now kept at the NEA warehouse, he said.

Tapil said the project, if it pushed through, would help Mangatarem and the other towns solve their power problems.

Expansion plans

Cenpelco is trying to remedy the problem of Mangatarem.

A substation will be installed in the town as part of the cooperative's rehabilitation and expansion plans.

For now, Tapil said, the effects of the installation of a new sub-station in Sual town, which was already completed in August, would be studied. The facility is expected to be commissioned soon pending the resolution of issues in the memorandum of agreement with the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

The Sual substation, according to Tapil, will serve Sual and its nearby towns, in effect unloading a substantial portion of the power supply drawn from the Bugallon substation.

Mangatarem gets its power supply from Bugallon, 30 km away, and the load split is expected to improve its power supply.

Tapil said the distance and the current load of Bugallon accounted for the unstable power supply in Mangatarem.

Still in all, Tapil said the mini-hydro projects for Mangatarem were worth pursuing as these indigenous power sources, aside from being environment friendly, also helped cut cost because they were not fuel-dependent plants.

Rodrigo Corpuz of Cenpelco's billing department said for the first half of 2002, Mangatarem had an average monthly power consumption of 690,145 kWh.

He said 69,718 kWh or 10 percent of the volume was coming from commercial concessionaires and 67,066 kWh (9.7 percent) from industrial users. Industrial users are mostly palay milling establishments.

If pursued, the Pila project's 6.24-MW installed capacity alone can generate 54,662,400 kWh or 150 percent more than the town's average monthly consumption. With this, Mangatarem can well provide for the power requirements of agro-industrial users.

But before Mangatarem can attract investors, the local government must first encourage power investors to build the mini power plant because it does not have the resources to do so.

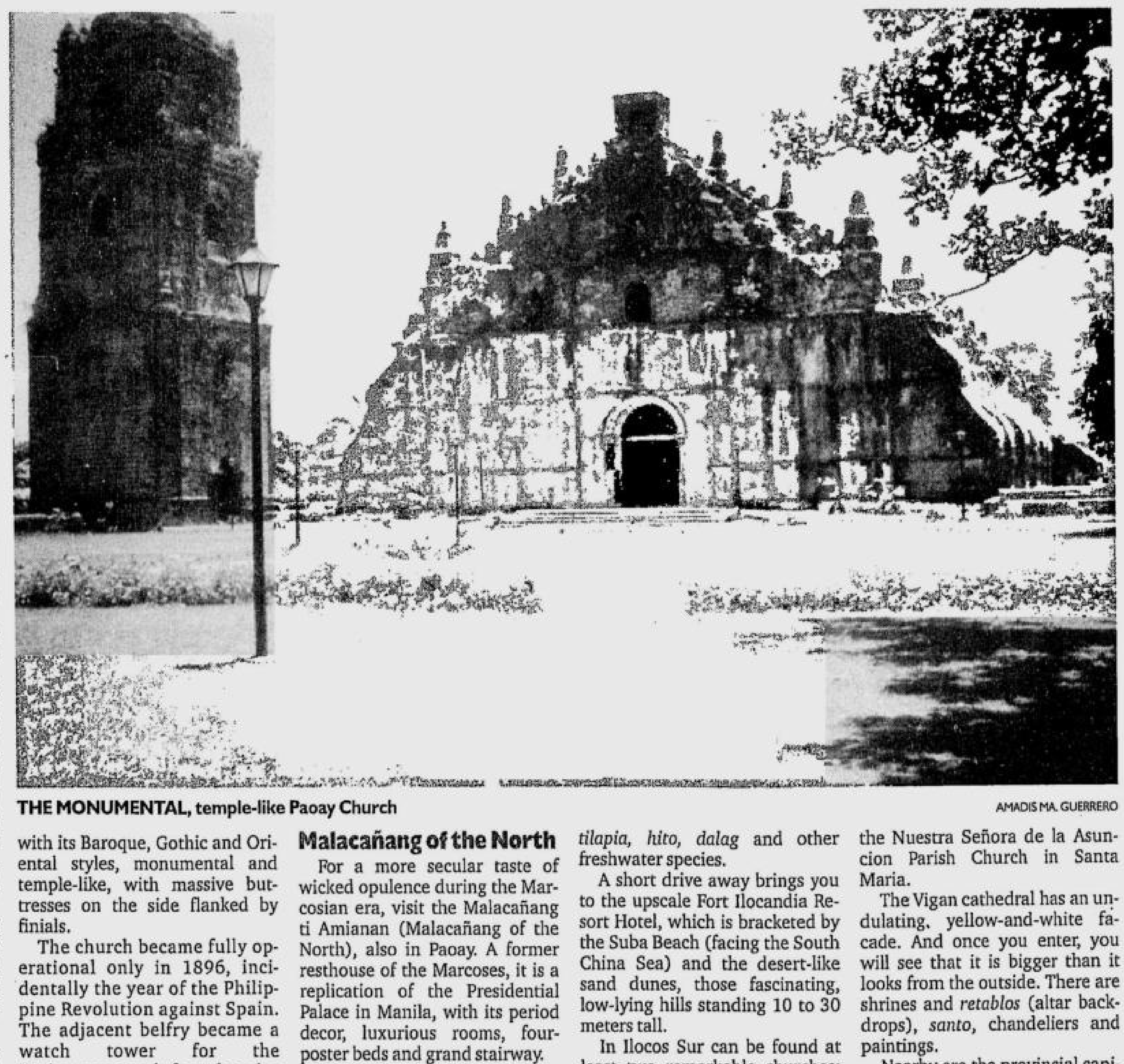
"To rationalize resources, the government has devised a plan whereby public funds will be directed to micro plants under the rural electrification projects," said Ronnie Sarhento, science research specialist at the mini-hydro division of the DOE.

Mini-hydro plants like Pila and Barabac are being packaged as investment proposals to private entities. This plan is backed by RA 7156 which gives various incentives to proponents and investors who wish to participate in the country's mini-hydropower development program, he said.

The incentives include special privilege tax rates; tax-free and duty-free importation of machinery, equipment and materials; tax credit on domestic capital equipment; special realty tax rates on equipment and machinery; value-added tax exemption; and a seven-year income tax holiday.

A wealth of eco-cultural attractions in Ilocos region

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor



THE MONUMENTAL, temple-like Paoay Church

AMADIS MA. GUERRERO

THE PAST three months have been wet, but the prediction for October and early November is less rainfall. The semestral vacation is also at hand. So, it's time to bring out those traveling bags.

Eco-cultural tourist, if I may coin the phrase, try the North.

The Ilocos region is a land of great churches of coral with a separate bell tower (a precaution against earthquakes during colonial times), historical shrines and landmarks, rugged landscapes, stately mansions, beaches and resorts, sand dunes and more than a hundred islets with coves and caves.

The four provinces of the region are Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

Ilocos Norte, in particular, is noted for its churches. These include the St. William Cathedral in the capital city of Laoag, Italian Renaissance in style according to the specialists; the Church of St. Andrew in Baccara, severely damaged in 1983 but reconstructed through the support of German Catholic benefactors and the people of Baccara; the Santa Monica Church of Sarrat; and the Paoay Church.

That catastrophic earthquake in 1983 also ruined the church of Sarrat, but it was restored through the efforts of parish priest Jack Jose and his parishioners.

The church of Paoay is the most famous, unique and most often photographed in the region. It impresses the pilgrim with its Baroque, Gothic and Oriental styles, monumental and temple-like, with massive buttresses on the side flanked by finials.

The church became fully operational only in 1896, incidentally the year of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. The adjacent belfry became a watch tower for the Katipuneros and, four decades later, the guerrillas of World War II.

Malacañang of the North

For a more secular taste of wicked opulence during the Marcosian era, visit the Malacañang ti Amianan (Malacañang of the North), also in Paoay. A former resthouse of the Marcoses, it is a replication of the Presidential Palace in Manila, with its period decor, luxurious rooms, four-poster beds and grand stairway.

The mansion overlooks the picturesque Paoay Lake, a National Park which is home to *tilapia, hito, dalag* and other freshwater species.

A short drive away brings you to the upscale Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel, which is bracketed by the Suba Beach (facing the South China Sea) and the desert-like sand dunes, those fascinating, low-lying hills standing 10 to 30 meters tall.

In Ilocos Sur can be found at least two remarkable churches: St. Paul's Metropolitan Cathedral in the capital city of Vigan, and the Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion Parish Church in Santa Maria.

The Vigan cathedral has an undulating, yellow-and-white facade. And once you enter, you will see that it is bigger than it looks from the outside. There are shrines and *retablos* (altar backdrops), *santo*, chandeliers and paintings.

Nearby are the provincial capitol, Burgos Plaza and the Ayala Museum and Library, which is the ancestral home of the martyred Fr. Jose Burgos; the grand Archbishop's Palace; and the Heritage Village, with its numerous *bahay na bato* (stone houses) built during the 18th and 19th centuries.

All these have made Vigan an important cultural destination. Places to stay in the city include Vigan House and Cordillera Inn.

South of Vigan is the town of Santa Maria and its hilltop church, accessible through an 85-step stairway of stone built during the late 19th century. The church has been declared a national landmark and, like Paoay Church, is included in the United Nations' (Unesco) World Heritage List.

A strong earthquake destroyed the church of Agoo, La Union in 1892, and a new church was constructed, dedicated to the Nuestra Señora de Caridad. It became a basilica in 1978. The church faces the town park, which boasts of a huge sculptural work paying tribute to the province's fisherfolk.

A few steps away are the Agoo municipal hall and the Museo Iloko.

Beach country

La Union is also beach country, and the resorts stretch from Agoo to San Juan, which is a few kilometers north of the capital city of San Fernando. There are resorts in Agoo (Agoo Playa Hotel), Bauang (Coconut Grove and Cresta del Mar), San Juan (Puerto de San Juan and Las Villas) and other towns.

Las Villas is small and cozy, with a Mediterranean ambience. The Puerto de San Juan Resort Hotel has a chapel beside the main building, goldfish ponds under a small bridge, swimming pools, period lampposts and manicured lawns.

A WEALTH/p. A17

Remembering Tatay Bautista

By Abe Florendo
Contributor

ON MANY cold evenings in Baguio, when the fog disappears into the dark-green shadows under the trees and the lights begin to flicker in the city seen from the window of his house that is reached by a steeply rising driveway from Bonifacio Street, Tatay would pull his sweater over his head, take his seat in the sala, and tell me stories of his life.

He was a smallish man, brown and veined like a tobacco leaf, agile and sprightly for his age, with youthful, twinkling eyes that the years could not dim.

Tatay—as everyone calls Dr. Fernando G. Bautista, who died on Oct. 9 at the age of 94—would talk about his rough-and-tumble young years in Tondo along the banks of the Canal de la Reina, on whose back, even in those days, detritus and dead rats floated out to the sea.

His reminiscences in those misty evenings unraveled a classic tale of a poor boy who made good, a story at once sad and funny and achingly human.

How a bootblack and newsboy from Palumpong became the founder of an eminent university in Baguio. How the power of the human spirit could overcome adversities. How one man fused his personal goals with the future of a people and pursued his vision with the fear of God and a fatherly concern for others in his heart.

Purity and integrity

A picture of him when he was principal of the Rizal Elementary School in Tayuman, in his immaculate sharkskin suit, seated behind his desk with a vase of white lilies perched on one side, conveys the purity and integrity with which he would conduct his chosen career. He was an English teacher at the University of the Philippines College Baguio when war broke out. He was by then married to the pretty and spirited Rosa Castillo, also a teacher and a former classmate.

He saw American bomber planes flushing out the Japanese occupation forces effectively raze Baguio to the ground, but even before the smoke had cleared Nanding Bautista was already scrounging up a vocational school from salvaged GI sheets whitewashed with carburo. He understood that a vocational school was what Baguio needed for its physical as well as economic rehabilitation.

The school became a full-fledged university in 1969. The University of Baguio would be called (with no little sarcasm) as "The Great Igorot University," but it's probably the whole point for Bautista: serving the Igorots and Ibalois was the supreme logic for establishing a school in the Cordilleras.

Many prominent men and women, from the highlands and the lowlands, among them former Baguio mayor and now congressman, Mauricio Domongan, graduated from UB.

Other fields

Tatay himself advanced to other fields. For a brief shining moment he was a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention (a great frustration for him eventually, as he found it to be a farce).

For his many contributions to athletics (track and field), he was baptized "The Durable Old Man of Sports" by sportswriters. He was honored guest in all Asian and Southeast Asian meets and had attended all the Olympic Games since 1960.

Baguio's senior society buzzed with delight when a year-and-a-half after Nanay Rosa died, Tatay married the widow Constancia Guevara, once a fellow teacher in Tondo and, he claimed, one of his first loves.

The octogenarian Lothario would be driven the many miles to Tondo by his faithful driver to woo the widow. The car windows would be rolled down as air-conditioning gave him the coughs. After their wedding, Mama Anching went to live with Tatay in Baguio. "I could not sleep without a woman beside me in bed," Tatay confided.

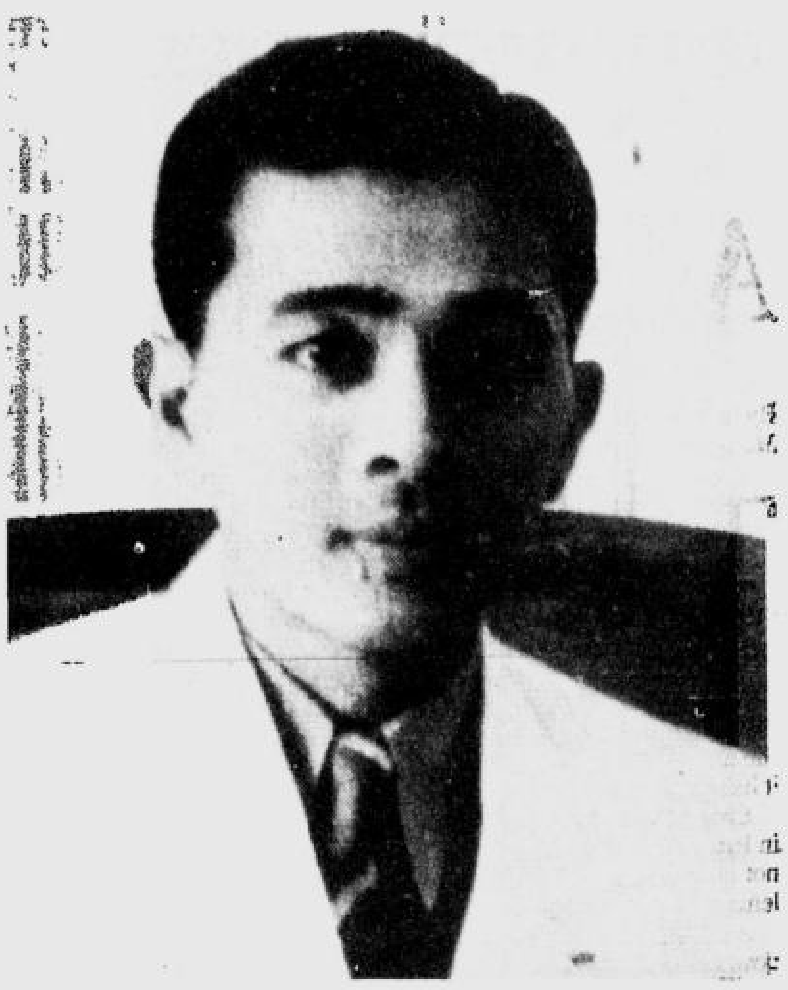
Even when he had ceded the stewardship of the university to his sons—the present president is Virgilio Bautista, the sixth of his seven sons—he was still very much involved in academic programs as well as in the physical expansion of the school.

After the killer earthquake of 1990 that knocked down seven buildings of the university, it was he who took charge of the reconstruction, himself traveling to Manila to haggle with the Chinese hardware dealers for the best prices.

The grade schooler who marched up the stage to receive his diploma in his well-worn slippers and the teacher who sold brooms to support his family during the war had not shed his frugal ways.

And to his last days he had not faltered in his spiritual and religious ways. He was a lector in early morning Sunday Masses at the Cathedral. Found in his wallet when he died was a prayer he scribbled on a small piece of paper, dated Oct. 20, 2001. It read: "Lord, give me the grace to open my heart to Your spirit, so that each moment of the day it will be You who leads and guides me."

And still to the end he was brimming with plans for the city and the people he had loved so well. Said his son, the architect Bnn Bautista: "Tatay had plans for a hospital, he had plans for a mall. He could have realized all these if he had lived a few more years."



FERNANDO Bautista as a young elementary school principal in Tondo. Photo taken from "Tatay," his biography.

But Tatay, like many legendary great men, knew when to fade away, although everyone had expected him to live to be a hundred years old.

WRITER and editor Abe Florendo wrote "Tatay," a biography of Dr. Fernando G. Bautista, in 1994.

THE QUAINT fountain at Fort Ilocandia

AMADIS MA. GUERREO

A wealth . . .

From page A16

From the roof deck, you can look out over the San Juan coastline and the South China Sea.

We are traveling southward and we now come upon Pangasinan, known for its Bonuan *bangus* (milkfish)—check out the Dagupan public market—the wonderful Hundred Islands in Alaminos, the beach resorts in San Fabian (check out Sierra Vista and the Presidential Rest House) and religious shrines.

A nice place to stay in Pangasinan is the Lisland Rainforest Resort along the Urdaneta Highway (182 km). This highway is flat, almost monotonous. But when you turn right (coming from Tarlac) at the resort sign, you will immediately enter a forested area.

There is a large, attractive swimming pool, aircon cabanas, and century-old acacia trees. The owners—the Sison family—are environmentalists affiliated with Mother Earth Unlimited.

"When I feel frustrated or tired," laughs manager Bibette Sison, "I just hug the trees and benefit from their energy and good vibes."

A showpiece of a church in the province is the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Calasiao. Like most colonial churches in the Philippines, the parish has a history of miracles, destruction, and restoration. "Restoration and not repair," affirms the affable parish priest, Monsignor Luis Ungson.

The Baroque-Romanesque church has a grand convent house and a state-of-the art, computerized musical system. Antiquity breathes through the church and *convento*.

And, oh yes, dear pilgrim. When in Pangasinan, don't forget to visit the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine, and say a prayer. Who knows, La Vierge Marie, Mama Mary might just grant your wish.

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Southcom chief kicked upstairs

From page A1

to lose face."

Sources said a "rift" between Carolina and Army chief Maj. Gen. Dionesio Santiago had contributed to Carolina's decline as regional commander.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the switching of posts was "routine" but a source in the military said it was "a sign of loss of confidence" in Carolina.

Carolina's transfer to Camp Aguinaldo for a desk job came after a series of bombings and military setbacks. On Oct. 2, a powerful explosion in Zamboanga City killed an American soldier and two Filipinos, and wounded 26 others. On Oct. 10, another bombing this time in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, killed eight people and wounded 25 others.

Then on Oct. 12, the Marines lost 11 men in an encounter with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul, Sulu. It was one of the biggest losses in a single battle this year against the Abu Sayyaf, which the military has repeatedly claimed to have decimated.

Doesn't care for his men

A middle-level Army officer said Carolina "seems not to care for his people," citing that in two months, Oplan Endgame, the much-vaunted war of attrition against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, has left some 40 soldiers dead.

Golez said Carolina was relieved of his post not because of the bombings and military setbacks in Mindanao. He said it was a normal movement "meant to 'round' the experience of AFP officers."

A Malacañang insider described the switch as " changing of the 'guards' to improve mission accomplishment."

He noted that Abaya, a member of Class 1971 of the West Point Military Academy, was "familiar with Mindanao and knows the battleground."

The Palace source said the decision to have Abaya and Carolina trade positions was made last Friday. At his regular briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that he did not have any official explanation on the revamp.

Carolina himself said that his transfer was a "normal rotation" and that there was nothing wrong with it. "I'm retiring one year after Oct. 18. I have to move out before Oct. 18 as part of the normal rotation," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Carolina said there were movements inside the AFP recently because of the presence of many three-star generals waiting for positions. "If I will not move out, many three stars will be stuck," he said.

"I have to go up to the GHQ, so that in the next round of movement, I can go up to major positions. If I will not leave the Southcom post, I might be stuck here," Carolina said.

He will vacate his post on Oct. 18 on his 55th birthday. The turnover ceremony at the Southern Command is scheduled for Oct. 17.

This is the second time that a Southcom chief had been relieved at the height of an Abu Sayyaf offensive. The first was the relief of Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling as Southcom chief after the Abu Sayyaf, which was then holding several hostages, including three Americans, broke through a military cordon on June 2, 2001 in Lamitan, Basilan.

Camiling was named AFP vice chief of staff and his post as Southcom chief was taken over by Gen. Roy Cimatu who went on to serve as AFP chief of staff.

'Promotion'

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, the AFP spokesperson, said Carolina's transfer to the AFP general headquarters was a "promotion" as Carolina would assume the the third highest position in the military.

"Being the deputy chief of staff is also a major responsibility although away from the combat zone. It's an administrative work but he should also be an expert in that field," Purificacion said.

Carolina attended a military comptrollership course at the US Army School of Administration in Indiana. He acquired a masters degree in Applied Business Economics at the Center for Research and Communication.

Before he was named Southcom chief, Carolina was the commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija.

Purificacion said the "lateral transfer" was not a "demotion" for Abaya, 53, whom he described as a "seasoned combat officer who is familiar with the ground and he knows the enemy well."

Abaya headed the joint Task Force Trident that saw action in 2000 against Abu Sayyaf bandits who were holding 21 mostly European hostages seized from the Malaysian island-resort of Sipadan. The hostages were later freed after negotiations brokered by the Libyan government.

He led the task force that rescued US hostage Jeffrey Schilling in April 2001 after eight months in Abu Sayyaf captivity on Jolo island.

Abaya also served as Army commander in Zamboanga del Sur province, where he led his troops against communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels and splinter groups from the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf.

Purificacion said that the decision to remove Carolina from the Southcom was supposedly made about two weeks ago by the Board of Generals headed by Defensor.

"It came before the killing of the 11 Marines, before the encounter in Patikul, so we could not say that it is an aftermath (of) the encounter," Purificacion said.

During Carolina's stint as Southcom chief, the Abu Sayyaf abducted three Indonesians from their barge on June 17 while groups allied with the Abu Sayyaf seized six Jehovah's Witnesses, including four women, and beheaded two of the men in August.

All the seven hostages are still being held by the Abu Sayyaf or its allies despite the launching in September of Oplan Endgame. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

Only 39 out of 180 dead identified so far

From page A1

"The process of forensics is taking a long time," an exhausted Byron told reporters after a meeting between Australian consulate staff and anguished relatives here on Indonesia's Bali island.

Byron's daughter, Chloe, was attending a party for a friend at the popular Sari club on Saturday night when a massive bomb leveled the building and killed more than 180 people, mostly young Westerners. The club was in the heart of the famous Kuta Beach.

"We're being very honest about it," Australia's Consul General to Bali, Ross Tysoe, told reporters. "It's going to be a very long, drawn-out process and it's highly likely there will be victims who won't be identified."

Hard to identify

The bodies of only 39 people have been identified so far in the congested morgue at the hospital in Bali's capital of Denpasar, officials said.

But the nationalities of only 36 were made available—12 Australians, seven Indonesians, eight Britons, two Singaporeans, two Swiss, and one each from France, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and Ecuador.

"It is hard to identify the bodies and in many cases, it is visual identification," said New Zealand Consul Nigel Allardyce. "But many have to be identified by forensic means because from what I have seen so far many are charred beyond recognition."

According to records made available to Agence France Presse, the 39 bodies were identified by safety box or hotel keys, surgical scars, credit cards, photographs, fingerprints, rings, necklaces and clothing.

Indonesian pathologist Indrayana Notosuhardjo said two of his Australian colleagues were helping to identify the bodies while Japan had also offered to assist in the DNA analysis.

There are only three DNA laboratories in Indonesia—two in Jakarta and one in Surabaya.

"For 180 bodies, it will take months to identify them," he said. "But if Japan will help and take some of the samples there for DNA analysis, it will be good."

Jemaah Islamiyah

Suspicion has fallen on Jemaah Islamiyah, a group that Singapore says is based in Indonesia and is linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network. But the group's leader denied involvement.

In a strange twist, a spokesperson for Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritual head of Jemaah Islamiyah, said the cleric was planning to submit to police questioning on Thursday.

The cleric's brother Umar Bashir said that the cleric, who has strongly denied any role in the Bali attack, wanted to discuss a defamation case he has launched against Time. The newsmagazine recently published allegations that implicated him in other terrorist activities.

But police say they have no immediate plans to interview Bashir. They have also refused to arrest him, saying they have no evidence against him.

Underlying the reluctance is a fear that arresting Bashir could provoke a backlash against the nascent democracy in the world's most populous Muslim nation, and that providing the military wider powers to deal with terrorism could enable the kinds of human rights abuses committed by the military under the reign of former dictator Suharto. During Suharto's rule, more than a million civilians were killed by security forces.

Malaysia and Singapore have jailed scores of suspected Jemaah Islamiyah members accused of plotting to bomb the US Embassy and other Western targets. The group has also carried out bombings in the Philippines.

Jemaah Islamiyah is believed to have four tons of ammonium nitrate purchased by a suspected Malaysian member who, according to the Malaysian government, allowed two of the Sept. 11 hijackers to use his apartment in 2000.

Emergency powers

Indonesian lawmaker Ade Komaruddin, however, said the government had already consulted lawmakers about an emergency decree allowing for temporary anti-terrorism measures to prevent a new attack.

"We are facing an emergency situation and we have to save this nation," Komaruddin told AFP, adding that parliament would not oppose the move which could lead to preemptive arrests or detention.

A police spokesperson also said Tuesday that 27 people had been questioned. Two Indonesians are being detained for further questioning, although they have not been formally declared suspects.

Brig. Gen. Saleh Saaf said one of those detained was in the Kuta area when the bomb exploded and was linked to a man whose identity card was found at the scene. The other was related to the owner of the ID card.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer described the attack as "very carefully planned" and said Indonesian investigators believed Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, possibly working with Jemaah Islamiyah, was responsible.

C4 explosive

Indonesian intelligence chief Hendropriyono told AFP the very powerful military explosive C4 had been used in the attack, which completely destroyed an entire street of shops and bars.

"What I've seen today is enough to break anyone's heart, a simply shocking sight, utterly appalling and it drives home to anybody the evil of terrorism, of mass murder," Downer said after visiting the site.

A US state department assessment of the situation on Bali advanced the theory that local attackers might have had outside help such as target surveillance, operational planning and technical know-how to put together the bombs and where to place them for maximum effect.

"It is likely that following the example elsewhere in the world, the foreign technical advisers had left country by the time the attack took place," the report said.

The blast came within days of an attack on US soldiers in Kuwait and another on a French oil tanker off Yemen. Earlier, the US intelligence community warned that al-Qaida might be planning a new wave of terrorism around the globe. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Bush has strong words for Megawati

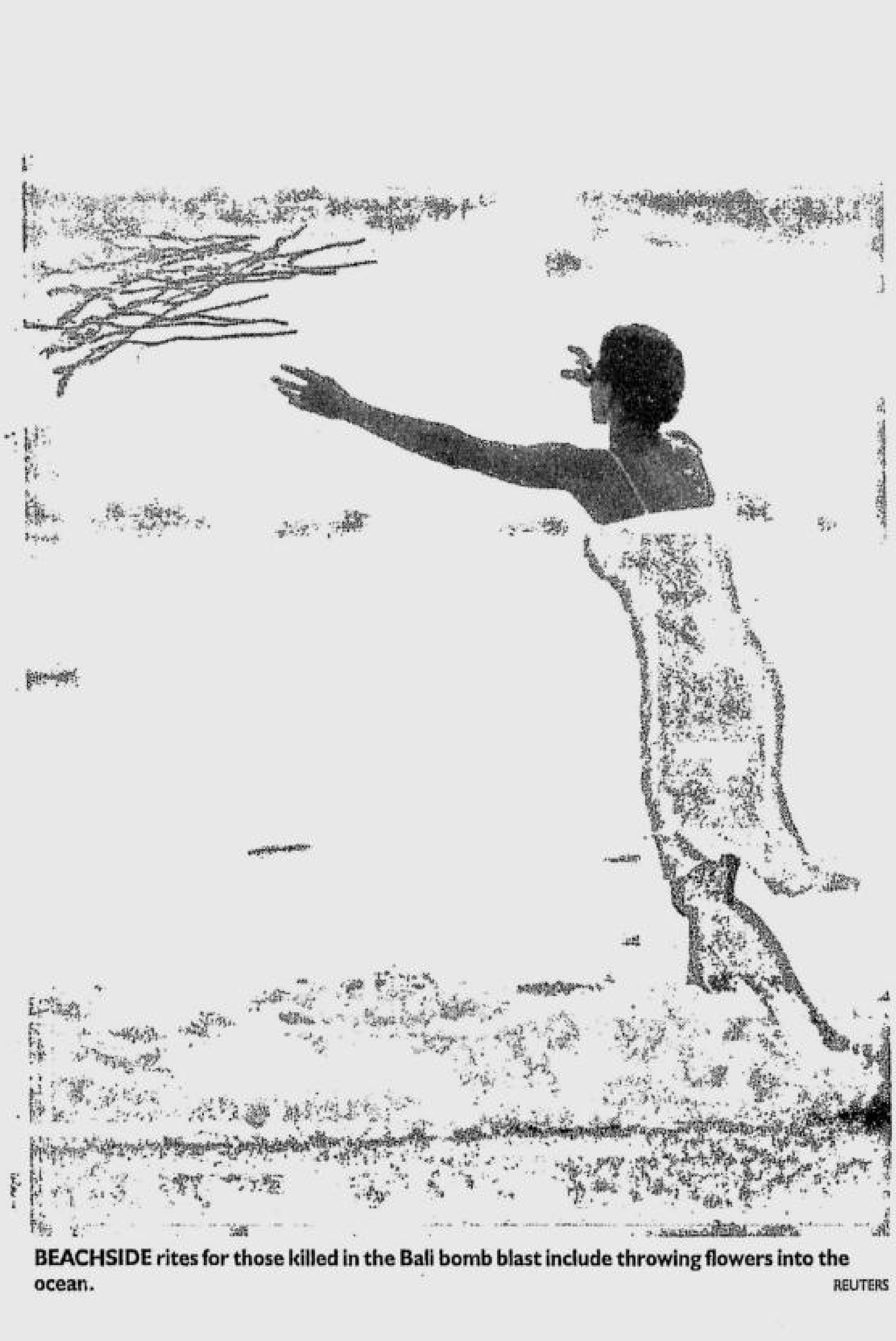
PRESIDENT Megawati Sukarnoputri is facing growing demands to arrest high-profile suspects whose continued freedom has astounded law enforcement officials in other countries. Whether she can do so without provoking extremists—and possible further attacks—is an open question.

In Washington, US President George W. Bush had strong words for the Indonesian leader, saying he planned to talk to her about the need to crack down on terrorism.

"I hope I hear the resolve of a leader who recognizes that any time terrorists take hold in a country it's going to weaken the country itself," Bush said.

But Indonesia's intelligence chief Mohamad Abdul Hendropriyono told reporters that his organization was already cooperating with foreign services in the investigation.

The UN Security Council has unanimously condemned the bombings, calling the attack an "act of international terrorism."



BEACHSIDE rites for those killed in the Bali bomb blast include throwing flowers into the ocean. REUTERS

The Sydney Morning Herald

AUSTRALIA IN MOURNING

Smiles forever lost

And still there are many, many more victims

PUTTING a beloved face on the tragedy, the front page of the Herald on Tuesday shows some of the dead and missing. REUTERS

4 terrorists …

From page A1

last weekend's bomb attacks on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali which killed more than 180 people and injured hundreds, mostly foreign tourists.

"For the past two weeks, we have not monitored any threats to our country. But we believe that they still have plans and we are monitoring their activities. We believe they are part of Jemaah Islamiyah," Delfin told reporters.

Jemaah Islamiyah has been accused by intelligence agencies of seeking to bomb Western targets as part of a jihad, or holy war, intended to establish an Islamic state in Muslim areas in Southeast Asia.

The group has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

A confessed member of Jemaah Islamiyah, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, is serving a jail term in the country after being convicted earlier this year of buying 1.2 tons of explosives, which police said was to have been used to bomb the US and Israeli embassies in Singapore.

Another Indonesian, Agus Dwikarna, has also been convicted here on similar charges.

Terrorist group

Also on Tuesday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Philippines was supporting calls for the United Nations to blacklist the radical Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist group.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs was tasked by the President to convey the Philippine government's position supporting the proposed UN resolution sponsored by Indonesia and Australia declaring Jemaah Islamiyah a terrorist group," Bunye said.

Military officials said Jemaah Islamiyah also had links with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been waging a rebellion in Mindanao since 1978. The MILF has denied the charge.

President Macapagal-Arroyo spoke by telephone with Indonesian leader Megawatti Sukanorputri late Monday to express sympathy for the more than 180 people killed in Saturday's carnage in Bali, he added.

A team of Filipino surgeons was scheduled on Wednesday to fly to Indonesia to help treat scores of wounded still suffering in hospitals there.

The PNP is also sending a team to Indonesia to assess the security of the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta and the Philippine Consulate in Manado.

A senior Philippine diplomat said the government was investigating the possibility that Saturday's bomb attack on its consulate in Manado could have been staged by sympathizers of the two detained Indonesians here.

The attack on the Philippine mission was the second in Indonesia since 2000 when Ambassador Leonides Caday was nearly killed in a car bomb explosion outside his residence in Jakarta. ***With reports from Inquirer wires***

12 killed, mostly kids, in Isabela road crash

From page A1

were immediately sent to the accident site, which is more than an hour's drive from here.

The children were accompanied by two teachers and an undetermined number of adults who served as their guardians during the field trip.

Police said the jeepney lost its brakes while negotiating a rough terrain. It hit a tree, tumbled and fell into a shallow ravine.

Say sorry, Mahathir tells RP

From page A1

tle more cautious in making statements that can lead to souring of relations between countries."

It is the second such statement by Malaysia in two days, its foreign minister, Syed Hamid Albar, having said Monday that the Philippines should say it was sorry for the case involving "Angelica."

But in Manila, Malaysian Ambassador Noor Mohammad Taufik said there was no formal demand from his government for an apology.

"There is no instruction from the foreign ministry for me to pursue that kind of action with your government," Taufik told the INQUIRER by phone. "I think the message of the foreign minister is that he expects the Philippines to apologize even without us asking for it."

Malacañang is taking a noncommittal position on the matter.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Malaysia's call for an apology was discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, and that "the decision is not to comment" on it.

But in at least two radio interviews earlier yesterday, Bunye said the Philippines would not apologize.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs did the right thing in filing a diplomatic protest in order to stop the abuses committed by Malaysian police on Filipinos being held in detention camps in Sabah.

He even assailed Malaysian authorities for supposedly victimizing one of their own nationals in its crackdown against supposed illegal migrants.

But at a briefing after the Cabinet meeting, Bunye retracted his earlier statements and said the Cabinet had decided not to comment anymore.

The word in diplomatic circles was that Syed Hamid and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had agreed not to make a big thing of the matter.

Albar supposedly made the statement to assuage the Malaysian public's anger at the protest ordered filed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Angelica claimed last month that she was raped by Malaysian guards before being expelled from Sabah.

According to Malaysian police, DNA tests show that her father is Malaysian. This makes her a Malaysian citizen under that country's laws, but Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's contention is that she holds dual citizenship because her mother is Filipino.

AP quoted Mahathir as saying yesterday that Malaysian police would not abandon their investigation into the rape allegation despite the confusion over the girl's nationality.

Humanitarian reasons

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting, the President said her administration would still monitor Angelica's case "for humanitarian reasons."

She instructed the DFA to "monitor Malaysian action that will lead to the prosecution" of Angelica's alleged rapists, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to coordinate with its Malaysian counterpart in order to ensure that the girl continued to receive "humane treatment."

Ambassador Taufik said he was leaving the matter of the apology to his country's foreign ministry.

But DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said: "I don't think there is a need for an apology. We took up the cudgels for a rape victim, and a minor at that. Should we be faulted (for doing so)?"

Lecaros also said that even if Angelica were a foreigner, the Philippines should not be taken to task for pursuing her case.

"If indeed she is not a Filipino, then it is the duty of the country to which she owes her allegiance to take up the cudgels for her," he said.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, told the INQUIRER that there was nothing to apologize for.

He said Angelica's case became the focus of Malaysia's attention simply because it chose to ignore the Philippines' complaint of maltreatment of Filipinos in Malaysian detention camps.

"Why should we apologize? Malaysia did not apologize for the way it treated (the Filipinos to be expelled)," he said, adding:

"We haven't forgotten the ill treatment of the thousands of our countrymen who were detained in Sabah." *Reports from AP in Kuala Lumpur; Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila*

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Co-op cuts trees like matchsticks

From page A1

allegedly violated its Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBMFA).

Earlier, officials of Barangay New La Union said Zifamulco cut fully grown trees outside of the coop's CBMFA that covers about 6,000 hectares. But even in its CBFMA area, Zifamulco also cut trees using illegal means, according to officials.

The coop allegedly used heavy equipment such as bulldozers, contrary to what was contained in its annual work plan it had submitted to the DENR before the approval of its CBMFA.

Edgardo del Rosario, New La Union barangay chair, said the coop's cutting of trees in Datal Ibang and Mt. Pasil was destroying the headwater of Pangi River, the major source of irrigation and household water for the village and nearby Ulpog, Pangi, Sison, Wali and Kiambing. Datal Ibang is the major source of water of Pangi irrigation dam, the biggest dam in Sarangani.

On Saturday, Del Rosario accompanied reporters to Datal Ibang and Mt. Pasil. There, newsmen saw fallen trees strewn like match sticks on the ground.

An inventory conducted in the area by the Multi-sectoral Task Force on Environmental Protection, which was organized by the local government of Maitum, showed that Zifamulco did not only cut Falcata trees but also some endemic species such as *yakal* and *lawaan*.

Gerry Bascuna, the municipal environment and natural resources officer of Maitum, confirmed that Zifamulco harvested trees outside the 6,000-hectare coverage of its CBFM.

World-class ...

From page A1

tiangge (flea market) in Greenhills.

Whatever happened to the world-class shop[illegible] Whenever she was in New York, her shopping sprees were the talk of the town. Tiffany's and Bulgari and other ritzy shops in the world's shopping capital closed their doors while she was in their stores the better to service her exclusively.

Her passion for shoes landed her in the Guinness Book of World Records for owning [illegible] number of shoes.

[illegible] Imelda Marcos shopping at the Greenhills tiangge, [illegible] dropping event.

Wearing a red skirt, Mrs Marcos was accompanied by an elderly maid and two bodyguards as she rummaged through the bargain stalls, most of which were just starting to open shop at around 10 a.m.

"She was so gracious, still so regal despite her age," commented a shop owner who could not believe her eyes that Mrs. Marcos, would even consider buying anything from her stall.

Stalls already opened at that time included those that sold imitation leather goods with designer labels like handbags and wallets.

"*Sana pinakyaw na ni Madame lahat ng paninda ko* (I was hoping that she would buy out all my goods)," the shop owner said after Mrs. Marcos had left.

From the stalls, Mrs. Marcos went on to the area where local artists sold paintings but which were a far cry from the artworks by Filipino and foreign masters that she had collected during 21 years of her husband's rule.

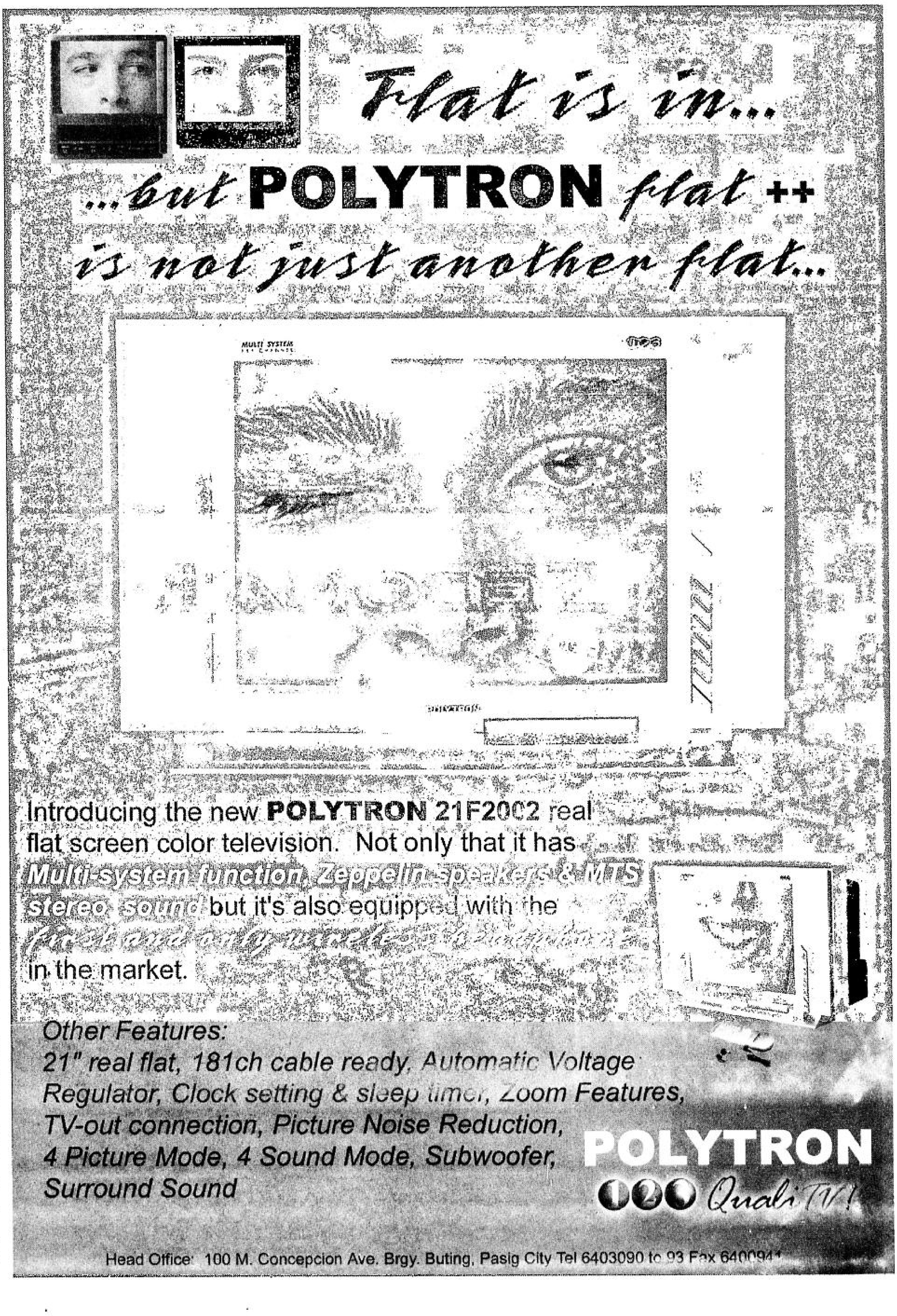
The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has sequestered some of these paintings allegedly bought by the Marcoses with ill-gotten wealth. Others have been donated to the National Museum; still others are nowhere to be found.

These include works by local masters like Fernando Amorsolo and Vicente Manansala as well as international artists like Picasso and Rembrandt.

"Maybe she's just buying gifts," quipped a bystander.

"Maybe she just wants her portrait done," said another.

She completed her shopping in 10 minutes and proceeded to her car with the elderly maid carrying a bagful of goods.



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QC court orders DENR to grant Picop new logging concession

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to grant Picop Resources Inc. a fresh logging concession under an integrated forest management agreement (IFMA).

This was after the court ruled that Picop was entitled to an automatic conversion of its expired timber license agreement (TLA) to IFMA after complying with various requirements, the company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez had refused to issue the IFMA permit to Picop, which in turn, accused the government official of soliciting bribes in exchange for the fresh logging concession.

The court ordered Alvarez to issue the necessary permit allowing Picop to act and harvest timber from its concession area to meet the raw material requirements of its pulp and paper mills.

The court ruling also said Alvarez had violated the non-impairment clause of the Bill of Rights under the 1987 Constitution in refusing to facilitate the automatic conversion.

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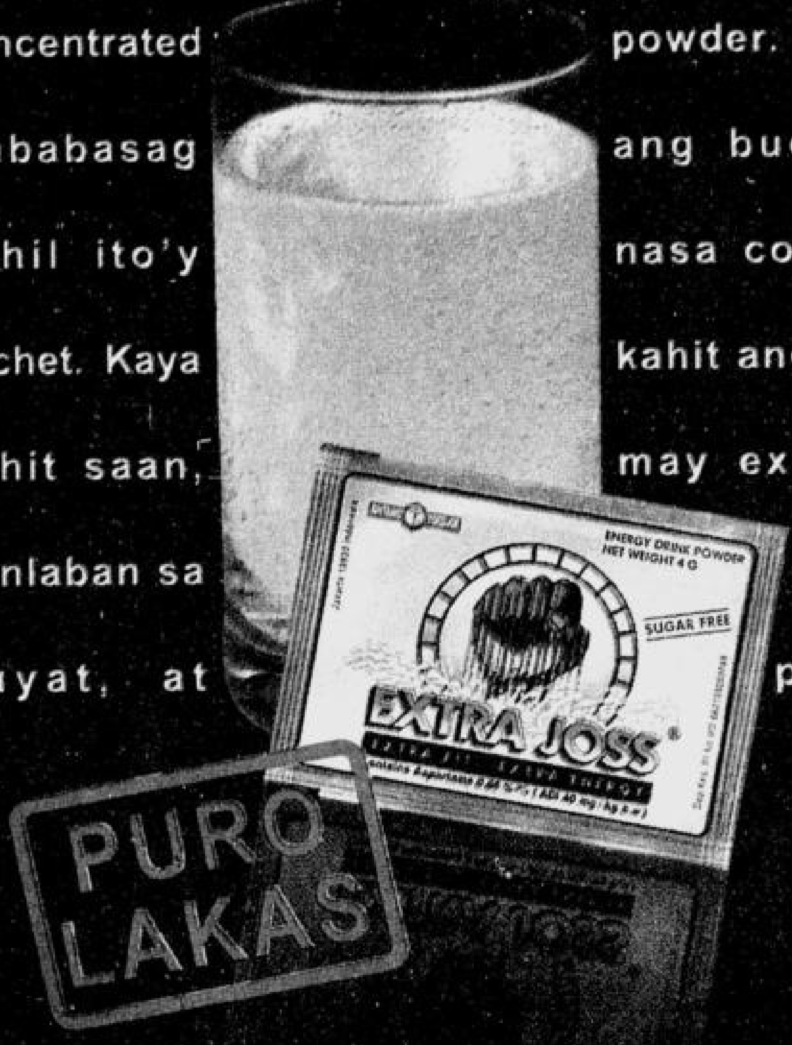

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

UE eyes 3rd straight win

UNIVERSITY of the East eyes its third straight win against St. Benilde, while La Salle meets PCU at 4 p.m. in the Bantay Bata showdown today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The UE-St. Benilde clash is set at 2 p.m., while the La Salle-PCU tiff will be held at 4 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Patafa boss fires long jump coach

I accept responsibilities–Go

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok yesterday fired the women's long jump coach and reprimanded four other coaches even as he ordered a massive overhaul of the track and field program in the wake of the association's dismal showing in the recent Busan Asian Games.

In a move that is expected to be followed by 20 other national sports associations which failed to deliver in Busan, Go sacked Alexander Ligtas, coach of long jump bets Lerma Bulauitan and Marestella Torres.

The fiery president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association also reprimanded head coach Dario de Rosas and staffers Mario Castro, Isidro del Prado and Romeo Guido for various reasons which contributed to the lowly performance of the RP tracksters.

"I won't offer any alibi," Go told the INQUIRER. "We lost because we didn't perform according to our abilities. I accept all responsibilities and I hope we could learn something from the defeat."

The country finished with three golds–in bowling, billiards and equestrian–seven silvers and 16 bronzes, to surpass its 1998 performance where the RP bets only won one gold.

Still, the output was still way below the seven gold medals projected by sports officials led by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and chief of mission Tom Carrasco.

Go said Bulauitan and Torres

PATAFA/ A22

GOLDEN SMILE
Gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski (middle) smiles as she waves a Philippine flag during the awarding ceremony of the equestrian individual showjumping final of the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea which ended on Monday. Also shown (from left) are silver medalist Lee Jin Kyung of South Korea and bronze medalist Tadayoshi Hayashi of Japan.

AFP

Heroes' welcome awaits Mikee, Django

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Two of the three gold medals won by the Philippines during the recently concluded 14th Asian Games held in Busan, South Korea, were earned by Tarlaqueños.

The two–Francisco "Django" Bustamante (billiards) and Michaela "Mikee" Cojuangco-Jaworski (equestrian)–also made history as the first Tarlaqueños to ever win Asian Games medals.

Proud of their achievements, local officials and residents have started preparing a heroes' welcome for them.

Mayor Genaro Mendoza said the city is preparing a welcome bash for them, including another Tarlac City athlete, Merculio Ramos, who was part of the Philippine cycling team.

"The accomplishments of the two were a big boost not only to the country but to Tarlac as well. They are role models for Tarlac athletes and we hope that their achievements would continue to inspire Tarlac's young people," he said.

Mikee and the other members of the RP contingent are expected to fly home today after a two-week campaign in Busan.

In an overseas telephone interview, Cojuangco-Jaworski told the INQUIRER that she was very happy and thankful for the support and prayers from Filipinos.

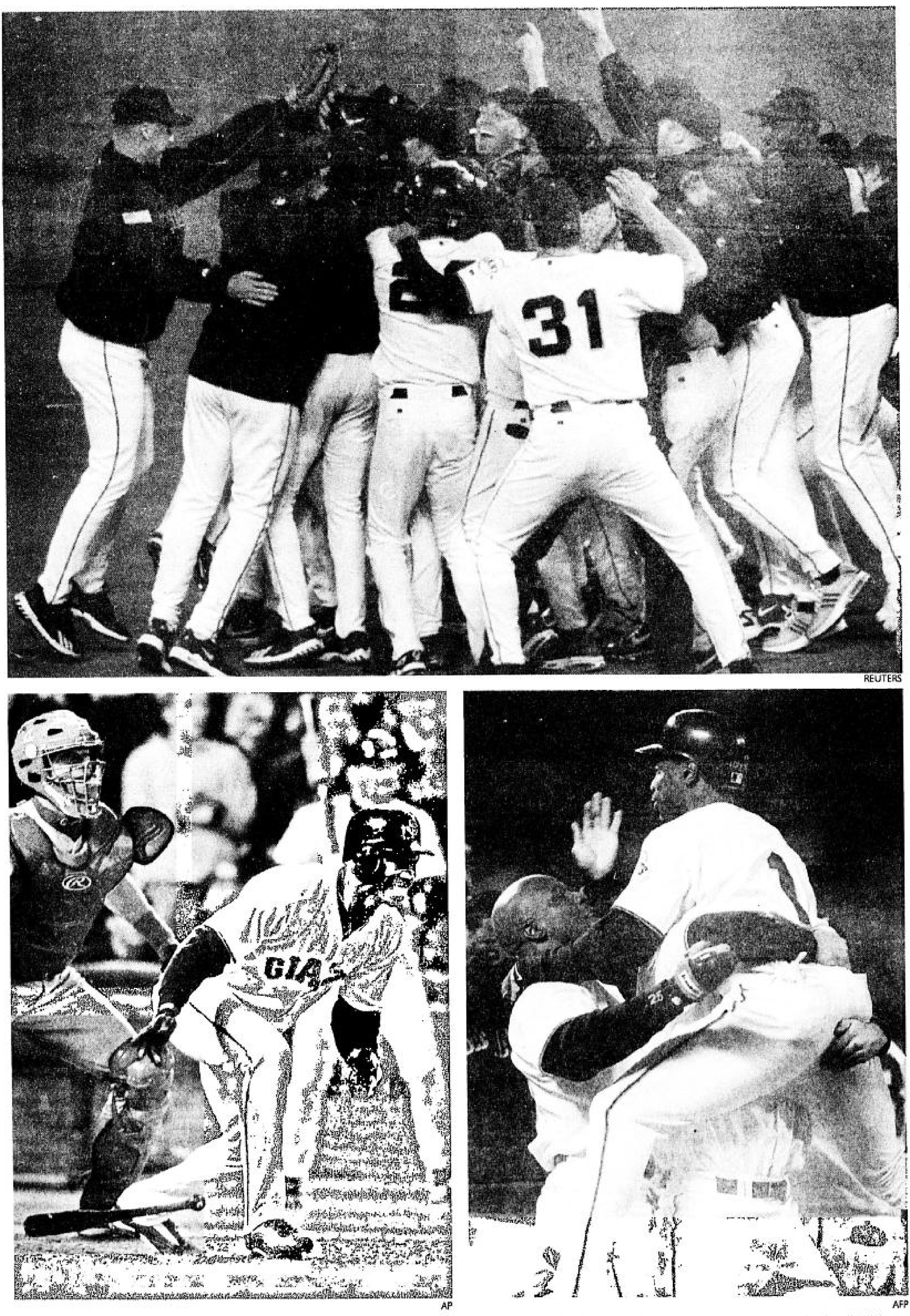
She said she is hopeful that somehow what she had accomplished can be a good example for future athletes in the province.

"Anything we aspire for is possible but we have to work for it," she said as she underscored the importance of hard work and dedication.

She said she was warmed by the support she got from her family.

"Tito Danding (businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.) and Tito Henry and Tita Gretchen were all there with my dad rooting for me during the finals," she said.

HEROES'/A22



REUTERS

AP

AFP

THE SAN Francisco Giants jubilate after beating the Cardinals (top photo). Lofton smiles (lower left) after hitting the game-winning RBI then gets a lift from Bonds.

All-wild card WS forged as Giants tame Cardinals

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds sprinted across the field so fast, he could've run all the way to the World Series.

At long last, Bonds made it. He got there when Kenny Lofton hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning, sending the San Francisco Giants over the St. Louis Cardinals 2-1 Monday night to win the National League championship series in five games.

Bonds, often criticized for being selfish and not interacting with his teammates, led the rush from the Giants' dugout to congratulate Lofton. The four-time Most Valuable Player was the first player off the bench to reach him.

"I'm just so glad I'm going to the World Series," Bonds said. "For me, it's a long time coming.

"It's a feeling I can't explain. Maybe in a few days I'll be able to tell someone how I feel," he said.

Bonds did his part in Game 5, hitting a tying sacrifice fly in the eighth off a determined Matt Morris. And now, at 38 and in his 17th season, baseball's biggest star will get a chance to play on baseball's biggest stage for the first time.

The first all wild-card World Series will start Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) at Anaheim when the Angels take on the Giants.

"I'll know what it's like when I wake up Saturday," Bonds said. "I don't have dreams. I've never been there before."

"We've got a tough series ahead of us. The Angels have been playing great in the clutch. It's going to be down to the wire with them."

While his teammates sprayed champagne, Bonds stayed dry—until his son poured water over his head.

"When we win the World Series, I'll celebrate," he said.

Bonds put his postseason failures in the past. He had never won a playoff series in five tries and hit only .196 with one homer and six RBIs in 97 at-bats. But he hit three home runs against Atlanta in the opening round and kept coming through against the Cardinals.

"Once I got past the ghosts of my past, I just played baseball," he said.

The Cardinals, playing on emotion since the death of pitcher Darryl Kile in June, once again could not get a big hit when it counted. They finished 3-for-39 with runners in scoring position in the series.

And the Giants took advantage, breaking through against Morris to tie it in the eighth. In the ninth, Morris retired the first two batters before David Bell and Shawon Dunston singled.

At that point, Steve Kline relieved and Lofton pulled the first pitch into right field. Bell scored easily, sending the Giants to their first World Series since 1989 as the sellout crowd of 42,67 erupted at Pacific Bell Park.

Stagfighter known tonight

WHO will be the National Cockers Association Stagfighter of the Year?

This will be known tonight when the annual NCA 7-Stag Derby series ends with the staging of the four-stag finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

After last Monday's three-stag qualifying round, five entries, led by Stagwars 2002 frontrunner Shio Expressway LCC of Louie, posted three consecutive victories to lead the star-studded cast. Also with three points are Binangonan Firefly II of three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, Sto. cristo Jimafer of Pampanga's champion cockers Jun and Rudy Jingco, National Bakbakan 7-Stag and Jimafer Jr. GE of Joel Fernando.

Seven other entries scored two points apiece and remained in the running, namely, RT 114 BMG, Firefly Binangonan 21, San Luis-JC, Jinfer-Vic Boy, Pagba Bakbakan, Anniversary Shio Coliseum LCC and Ucap Int'l Derby Jan. 7, 9 and 11.

Mikee's win is all about heart–Big J

By Dennis U. Eroa

WHILE expressing his desire to return as head coach of the Philippine basketball team, former cage great Sen. Robert Jaworski said the Asian Games triumph of his daughter-in-law Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski is all about " heart."

"It's all heart. Maybe she got some from me," Jaworski told the INQUIRER.

Jaworski became the country's most popular cager mainly because of his never-say-die attitude.

Fans still remembered a PBA game at the Ultra (now the Philsports Arena) when Jaworski, his lips all stitched up after getting busted by a wayward elbow, bravely lifted Ginebra to a close win against a top-ranked opponent.

Mikee, wife of Jaworski's eldest son Dodot, captured the gold medal in the individual show jumping event for the third and last gold of the Philippine delegation in the Busan meet.

JAWORSKI

Jaworski, however, could not help but express hopes that the Philippines, which went medalless in the country's favorite pastime, will be able to regroup and recover at the quickest possible time.

"Basketball is the Filipino people's passion, for some their way of life. I don't think that, with all other frustrations in their lives like poverty and (problem on) peace and order, they should be made to endure our loss of our basketball pride any more that it now hurts," said Jaworski.

He said he is ready to coach the nationals for the second and last time. Jaworski steered the Philippines to the silver medal behind China in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games. Known for his go-go style of plays, Jaworski was a member of the last Filipino team which beat South Korea in the 1968 Asian Basketball Championships held in Seoul.

Owing to its tight schedule, the PBA has allowed its pros to play only in the Asian Games, leaving a much-weaker squad to compete in the ABC, which is an Olympic qualifier.

Jaworski said there is a need to organize a basketball community that is composed of inter-locking leagues that have a common nationalistic focus.

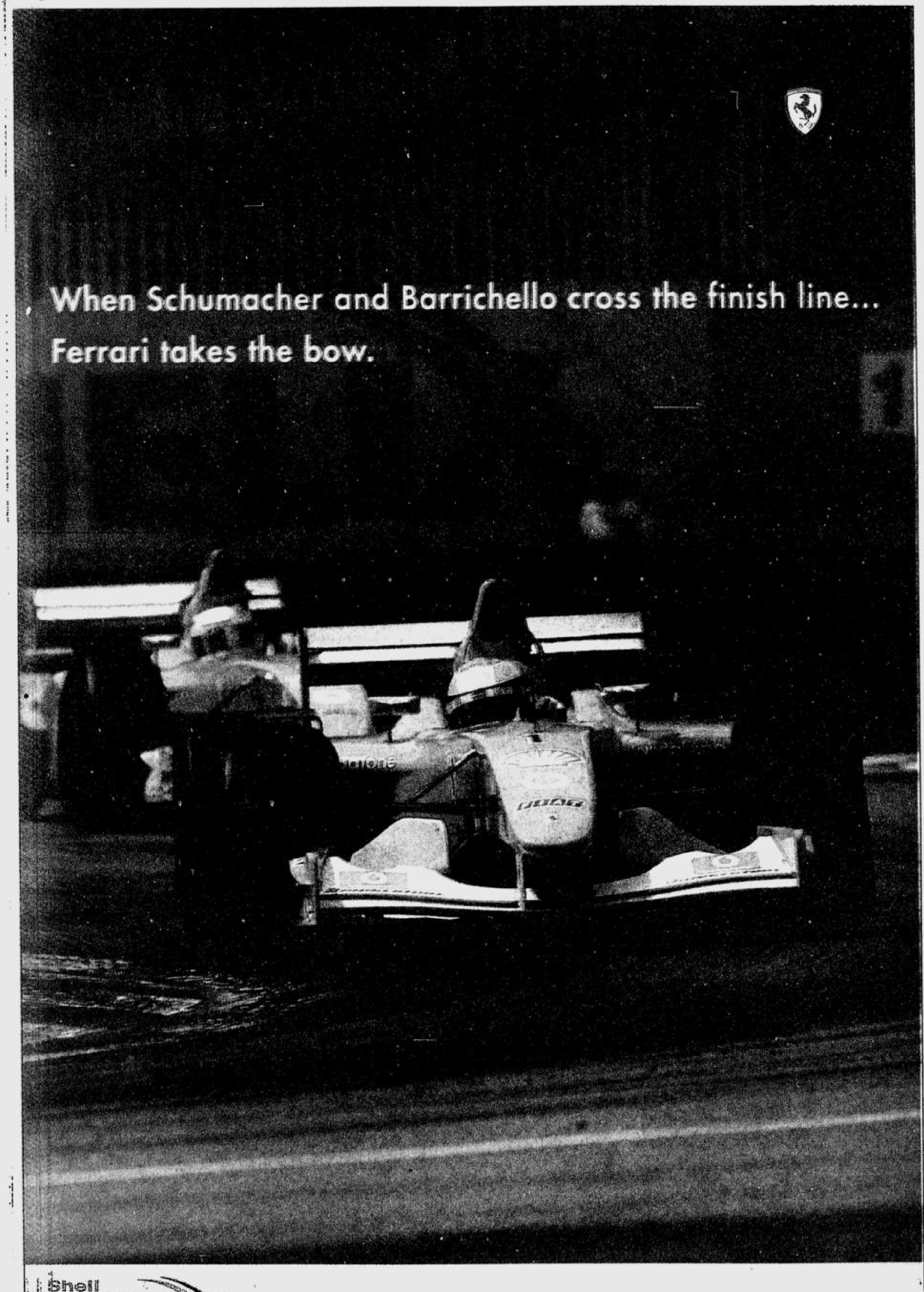
"I am willing to preside over a national summit "to unify the various leagues into committing themselves to one mission which is to regain basketball supremacy in the region."

The lack of cooperation was evident between the PBA and the Basketball Association of the Philippines in the making of the Busan team. Though the PBA had bankrolled the team, INQUIRER sources said some BAP bigwigs felt that they were not given a "voice" to share their knowledge regarding the formation of the team.

"I want to ask the role of coach Boyzie (Zamar), who is a member of the coaching staff.

He was at Busan all throughout, but his expertise wasn't utilized at all," said the BAP official, who declined to be identified.

"I don't want to add to the team's woes, but why was Zamar not even sitting on the bench?" *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*



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Toxic wastes at Clark, Subic

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BURIED in the inside pages of the country's newspapers recently was the urgent appeal of Princess Caroline of Monaco to US President George W. Bush to clean up toxic wastes the American troops left in their former military bases in Clark Field and Subic Bay.

Briefly, the Princess bemoaned the failure of the American military to rid its former bases in the Philippines of the dangerous toxic wastes before it left the country in 1991. "I would like to request your intervention to expedite the necessary countermeasures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation," wrote Princess Caroline, who is also the president Amade or World Association of Children's Friends, a worldwide humanitarian organization founded by her late mother Princess Grace.

She wrote the letter to Bush last Aug. 2, a copy of which was furnished the Amade Philippine chapter headed by lawyer Eric Mallonga and the Alliance for Bases Clean-Up International. These groups had earlier informed Princess Caroline of the true and tragic condition of Filipino toxic waste victims.

Almost 200 people, most of whom poor and innocent children, were reported to have died because of the toxic contamination left behind in the former American military bases, particularly at Clark Air Base, one compelling reason why I have consistently opposed the then much-publicized plan to build a permanent sports complex inside Clark, including the bid to host the 2005 Southest Asian Games there. The sprawling former air field is hazardous to the physical and mental health of the athletes who will be training there.

The danger of toxic wastes has remained largely invisible to the public mainly because many strife-torn countries, including the Philippines, lack the time and resources to investigate the matter, much less have a voice and report the tragedy. One toxic waste victim was Crizel Valencia who died last year at the age of six.

Crizel and her family once lived inside Clark Air Base after they lost their home to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. They later discovered that their home sat where the Americans had serviced and fueled their vehicles and that the water they had been drinking and bathing was highly contaminated with heavy metals and other toxic substances.

"The Americans left this garbage in our country," said Herondina Valencia, Crizel's mother. "Many died already. We want the Americans to know what happened to us."

Patafa boss fires . . .

From page A21

themselves asked to be transferred to another coach because Ligtas wasn't talking to them during the Games let alone offer instructions during the competition.

"I think he (Ligtas) has personal problems because he didn't event carry the girls' bags during competition which is one of the coach's duty to let the athletes concentrate on competition alone," Go added.

Go said that De Rosas left for Manila last Saturday even as men's long jumper Jobert Delicano was still competing in the final.

Del Prado, Go said, failed to act promptly when the name of 800m bet John Lozada was scratched from the heats lineup even though the Filipino was ranked third in Asia according to his personal time.

"Lozada was forced to share the 8th and last lane with that Bangladeshi runner and was very much affected by what happened," Go said.

Of the 31 NSAs which fielded entries in the Games, only 10 managed to take home medals namely billiards (one gold, one silver, one bronze), boxing (1s), bowling (1g, 2s, 1b), equestrian (1g, 1s), golf (1b), karatedo (2b), rowing (1b), shooting (2b), taekwondo (5b) and wushu (2s, 3b).

Heroes' welcome . . .

From page A21

Danding had been politically at odds with Cojuangco-Jaworski's father, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Danding and his family were in Busan to watch his grandchildren Danielle and Paola Cojuangco and Michelle Barrera who are part of the equestrian team that won a silver medal in the group competitions.

Where would Cojuangco-Jaworski go after her victory?

"Home to my children," she said, stressing that she had been away from her two sons since she started preparing for the Asian Games early this year.

Is she looking at the Olympics? "No, (it) never crossed my mind," she said.

SPORTSWATCH

Ivanchuk ousted

RAMOJI FILM CITY, India—World Championship finalist Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine was knocked out of the World Chess Cup 2002 on Monday after losing to Russia's Vladimir Malakhov in the last round of preliminaries. Defending Champion Viswanathan Anand made it to the quarterfinals, but Krishnan Sasikiran of India crashed out, after losing to China's Xu Jun. Playing white, top seed Anand faced the Caro Kann defense from Hichem Hamdouchi of Morocco and failed to get on top. He settled for a draw after both players entered the endgame with Queen and minor pieces equally matched. *AP*

Dokic bounces back

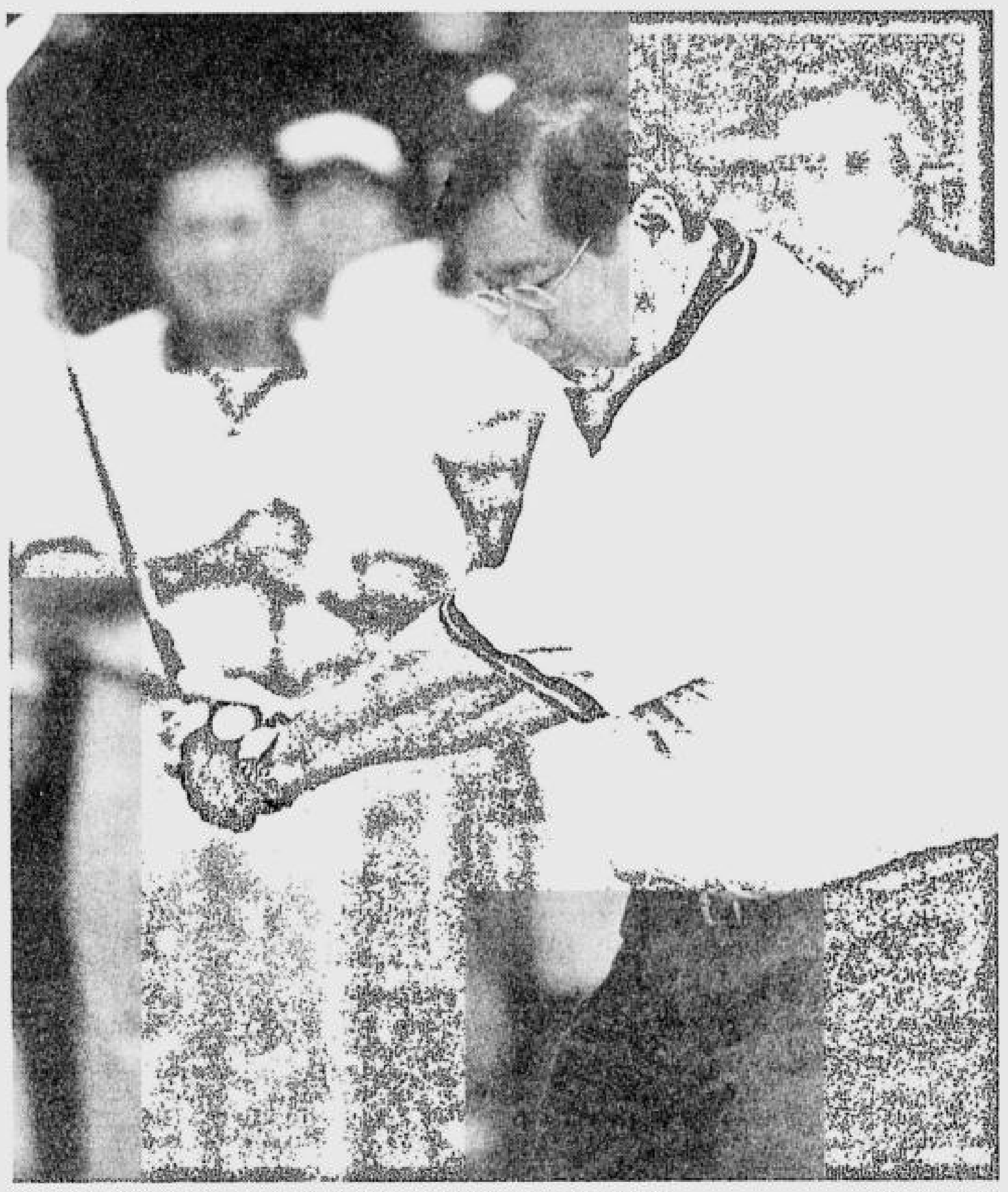
ZURICH—Jelena Dokic ended a run of opening round defeats when she overcame Iva Majoli 6-1, 6-4 to reach the second round of the $1.2-million WTA event here on Monday. The fifth-seeded Yugoslav had lost in the first round of her last three events and she seemed to be drained after a long season. Her match against Majoli was her 74th in singles and she has also played 35 doubles matches this year. *AFP*

Norman sparkles

MADRID, Spain— Former world No. 1 Magnus Norman is showing a lot of heart at the 11th hour of the season. The 25-year-old Swede, who briefly topped the ATP Champions' Race two years ago when he reached the French Open final, battled back from a set down Monday to outlast Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta 6-7 (2), 7-6 (4), 6-2 in the first round of the inaugural Tennis Masters Madrid. *AP*

Arc champ retired

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Godolphin racing will retire Sakhee, winner of last season's Group One Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, it was announced Monday. The decision to retire Sakhee came after a lingering knee problem, Godolphin's racing manager Simon Crisford said, according to the racing stable's official web site. Sakhee, winner of last season's Group One Juddmonte International at York, was supposed to run in Saturday's Group One Emirates Airline Champion Stakes at Newmarket, but he will now be retired to Shadwell Stud. Jockey Frankie Dettori said Sakhee was among the best horses he ever rode. *AP*



FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo hitting the ceremonial tee-off. ROMY HOMILLADA

Debuting Dizon surprise leader

By Jong Arcano

AFTER a disappointing performance in the recent Busan Asian Games, Marlon Dizon wanted a bolder challenge to give him back the drive to strive. There was nowhere to go but the pro ranks.

Playing against the men, the young national player who turned pro overnight got what he wanted as Dizon fired a two-under-par 70 yesterday to emerge the surprise leader in the opening round of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit kick-off leg at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Dizon, 25, birdied two of Sta. Elena's most dreaded holes—the par-4 13th and the par-3 17th—to cap a back nine charge that sent the Wack Wack member atop the leaderboard right in his first competitive round as a pro.

He was one stroke ahead of Antonio Lascuna, touted to be the man with the deadliest touch among the 99 entries here, and longshot Roel Banares who fired the only other sub-par rounds on a wonderful day for golf that was not to be for a horde of veterans still shaking off the cobwebs due to their long layoff.

Mars Pucay, carrying the advantage of knowing the course more than anybody else, returned from a heartbreaking World Cup qualifier stint to card an even par 72 like Elmer Salvador and Armando Eso.

Rodolfo Cuello, Edwin Estrera and Vic Santia were two three shots off the pace while former national player Cookie Lao, who also made his pro debut, shot a 74. Club pro Jun Cedo and Carito Villaroman were bunched with six others at 75.

Before the pros teed off for the first of a 12-leg nationwide series, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo led the hitting of the ceremonial balls. Joining him were Comelec chair Ben Abalos as the commissioner of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines, Tony Cabangon Chua of the First Gentleman Foundation, Inc. and Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. officials Ogie Manalo and Richie Garcia.

Rockets not rushing Yao

HOUSTON—Rudy Tomjanovich is already anticipating the push for him to get Yao Ming into the Houston Rockets' starting lineup, and the 7-foot-6 Chinese center hasn't even reported to his first NBA training camp.

The Rockets won the NBA lottery and then selected Yao, hoping he could lead the team in the middle as Hakeem Olajuwon did in winning NBA titles in 1994 and 1995.

Yao has been playing for the Chinese national team, which lost to South Korea in the gold medal game at the Asian Games. *AP*

14 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that 14.5 assists per game is the highest single-season assists average in NBA history, a record achieved by John Stockton of the Utah Jazz in 1989-90? The next season, he had 14.2.

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Pinoy boxer loses OPBF welter title

CEBUANO southpaw Rev "Gentle Giant" Santillan lost his Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) welterweight crown via a controversial split decision against Japanese challenger Hiroshi Watanabe Monday night at the Komaki Park Arena in Komaki, Japan.

Making his fourth defense of the title, the 25-year-old Santillan pressed the action from the start against Watanabe who occasionally moved away from the champion's telling blows.

But to Santillan's surprise, two of the three judges had the Japanese ahead with a score of 116-114 and 116-113. The third judge had the southpaw Santillan ahead, 117-112.

The title fight was a rematch where their first fight ended in a draw. The loss dropped Santillan's record to 15-1-1, 12 by knockout and may also cost him his lofty WBC No. 10 ranking.

In other boxing news, Philippine featherweight champion Jeffrey Oñate failed in his bid to snatch the OPBF crown when he dropped a 12-round unanimous decision to WBC No. 7 Takashi Koshimoto. Official scores of the bout were 120-108, 118-110 and 119-107 all for the Oriental champion.

Dennis Principe

49ers score

SEATTLE—Terrell Owens demonstrated to the Seattle Seahawks why the San Francisco 49ers so often have owned the NFC West.

The All-Pro receiver, held in check for most of the game, caught a 37-yard touchdown pass from Jeff Garcia midway through the fourth quarter to give the 49ers a 28-21 victory over the division's newest team Monday night. *AP*

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Jody nails down top driver award

AFTER four consecutive setbacks, crowd favorite and Caltex Havoline-Autoplus lead driver Jody Coseteng came back with a vengeance.

He raced like there's no more tomorrow and pulled the deciding sweep that virtually clinched for him the Philippine National Touring Car crown and the coveted Driver of the Year in the last leg staged recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

With the win, Coseteng amassed a total 132 points and all he needs to do is to formally claim the championship trophy even if he doesn't race in the final leg set Oct. 26-27 at the Subic International Raceway.

"It's all in the bag," said Autoplus co-team owner Carlos Gono as soon as Coseteng reached the finish line.

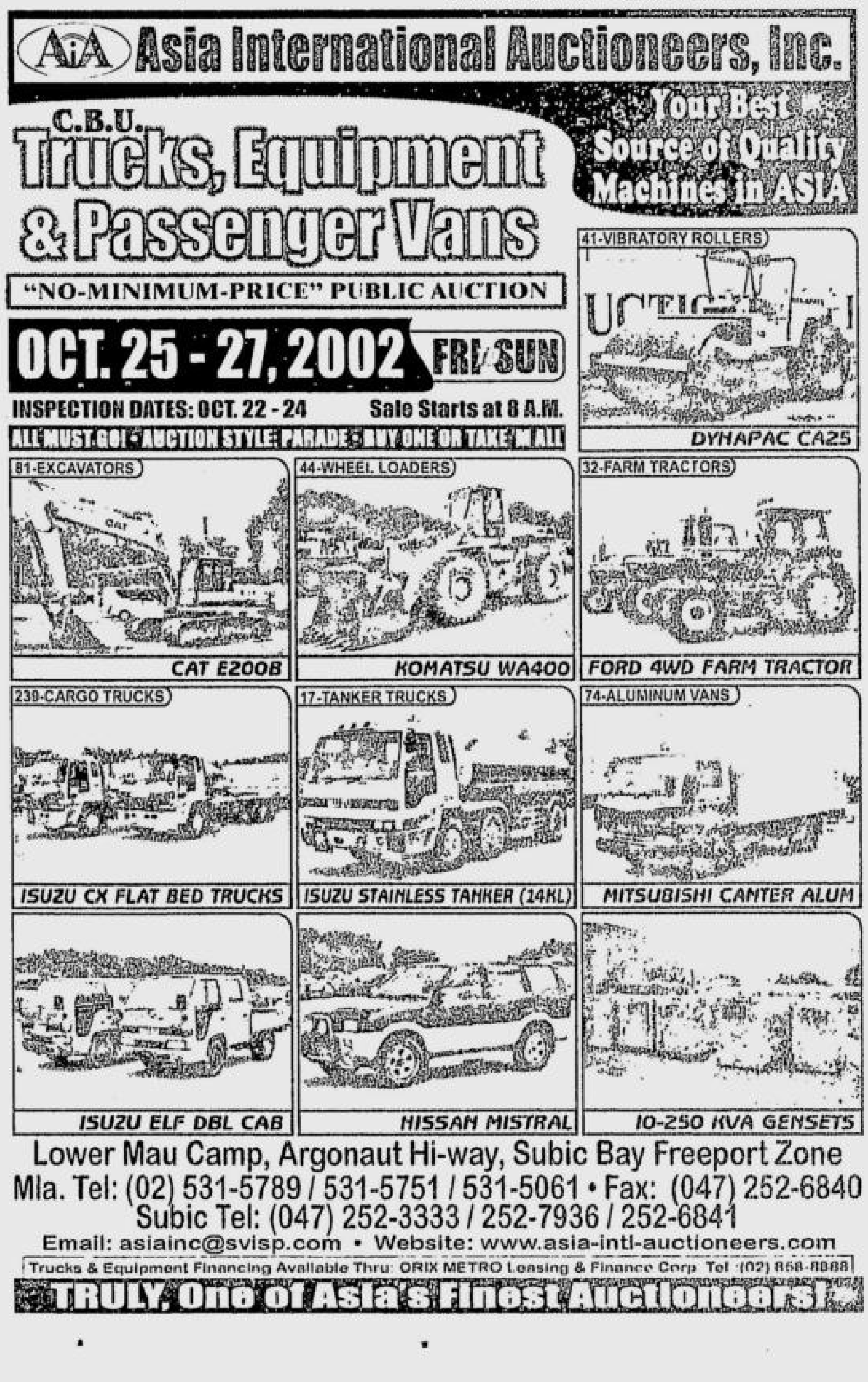
"It is the win that mattered most. We never had doubts that Coseteng will deliver the goods. His victory only proved the tandem of Caltex Havoline and Autoplus' high performance cars is simply perfect for circuit racing," said Paul Familara, Caltex Philippines product category manager for lubricants sales and marketing.

It proved to be a hassle-free weekend for Coseteng as Autoplus team manager Raul Ylanan made sure all variables are checked to ensure the victory.

Even Caltex Havoline-Autoplus co-driver Nilo Pazcoguin unveiled a much better performance, winding up fourth and third in Race 9 and 10, respectively.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Jose Kagaoan edged Federic Tumanon to win the Category A plum of the September leg of the Bato Balani Executive Active Chess Series at the Active Chess Center of Asia in Makati. Also today in 1995, Rodrigo Cuello shot a four-over-par 76 to settle for solo fifth in the $200,000 Merlion Masters leg of the Omega Tour in Singapore.



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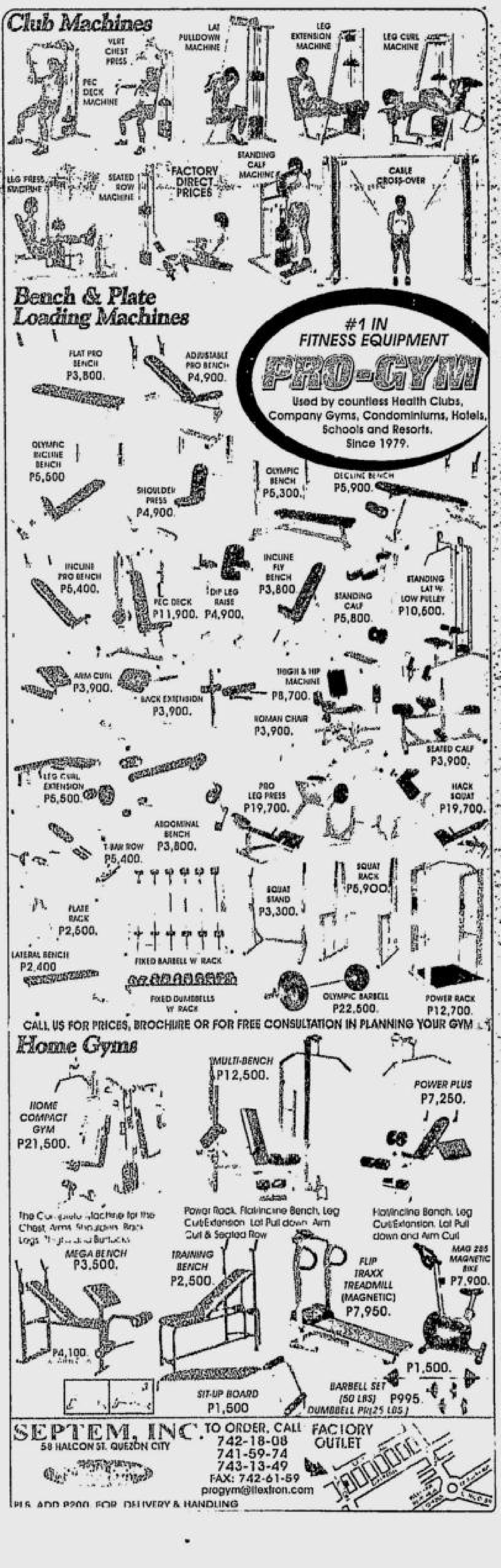

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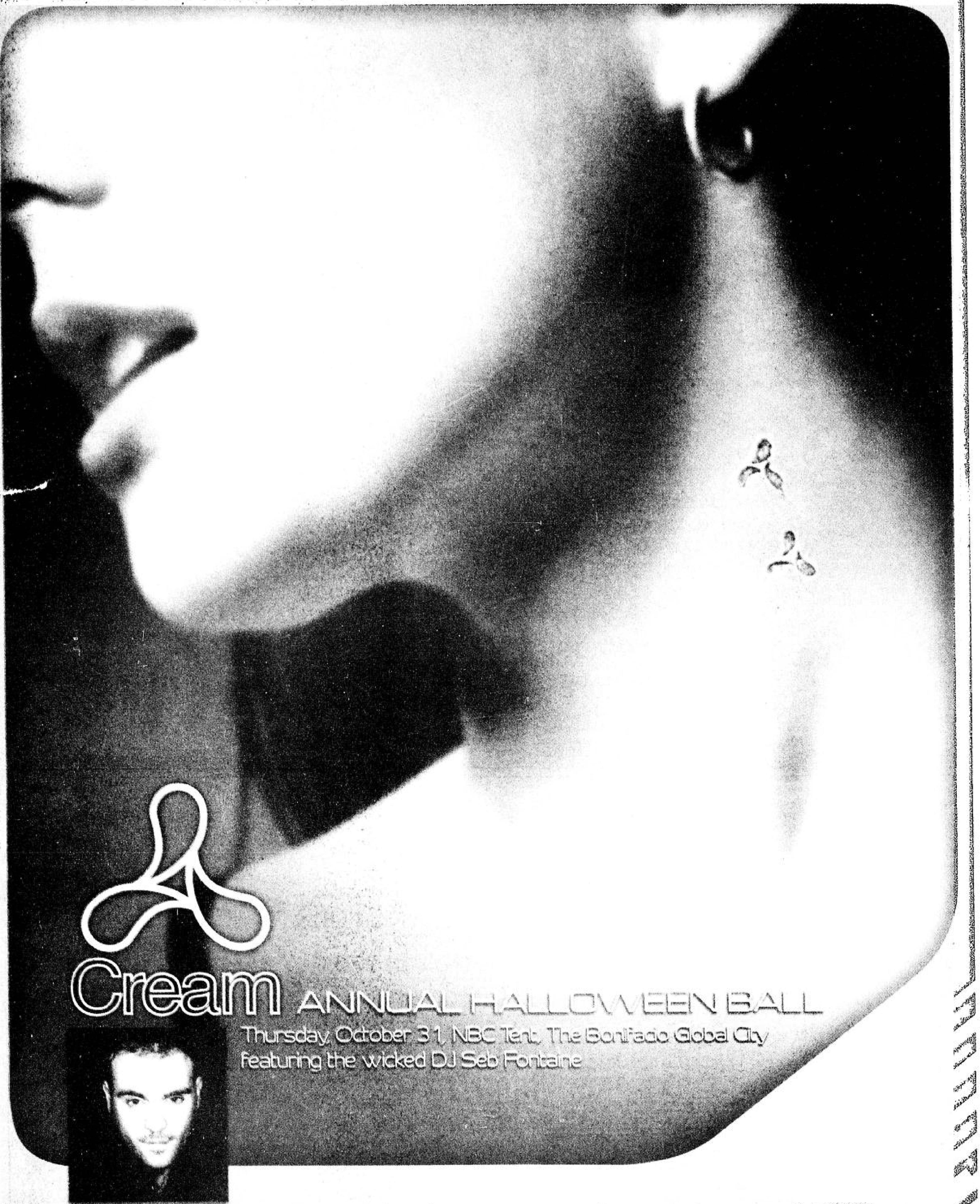

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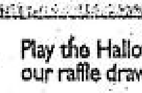

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WPD: People have nothing to fear

By Philip C. Tubeza

BULAONG. "We're doing our best to make sure it's safe night and day in the tourist belt."
PDI PHOTO

PARTY and "gimmick" animals need not worry about terrorist bombings in Manila's tourist district, according to the chief of the city's police.

The Western Police District is deploying additional motorcycle patrols, setting up checkpoints, and using an unconventional' "weapon" against would-be terrorists.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, head of the WPD, yesterday said the Manila police would use street vendors to prevent bombings in the capital's tourist belt.

"We are doing our best to make sure it is safe night and day in the tourist belt," Bulaong said.

He said the WPD is already networking with street vendors and teaching them to be on the lookout for suspicious-looking cars and people in Ermita and Malate, which have a number of restaurants, bars and entertainment venues.

Bulaong said the owners of commercial establishments have also been alerted to keep a tight watch on people going in and out of their establishments.

"This is a community effort," he said. "We want to get feedback."

In 1995, WPD policemen accidentally discovered an attempt to kill Pope John Paul II during his visit in Manila when a fire broke out in a Malate apartment. It turned out terrorists had been using the apartment.

The same terrorists, who were linked to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, were believed to have also planned to blow up American airliners over the Pacific Ocean.

Bulaong said the WPD is not taking any chances and recently received additional motorcycles for more police patrols.

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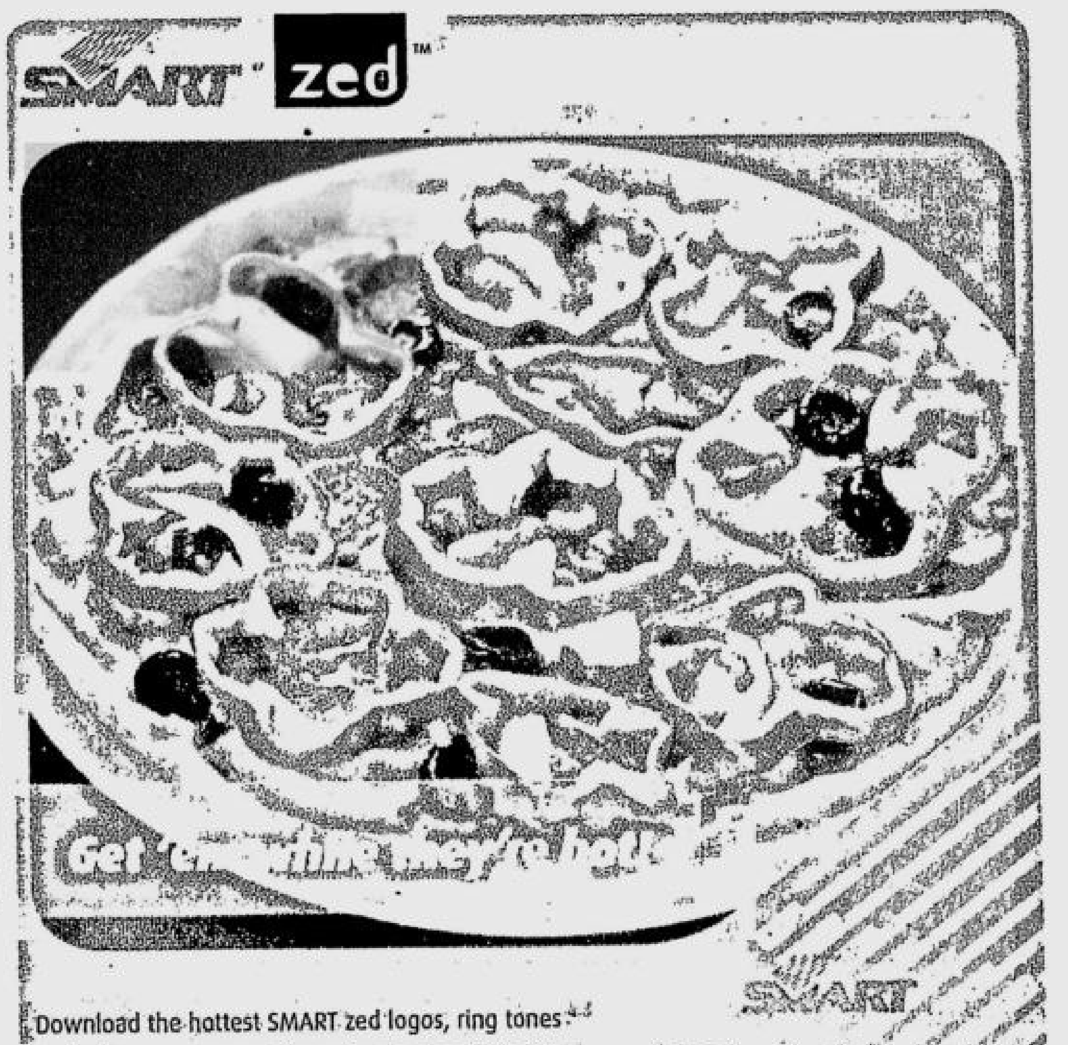

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RP wins a pop bottle crown, feels better than China, too

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—Now that it's over, it's worth asking which of the two countries, the Philippines or China, finished better in the Asian Games basketball war here.

China, of course, 'coz it captured the silver medal after finishing second best to the hosts.

The Philippines? We had all the chance to land third best, our team had a great start and even led by 10 points against Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, our players returned to their rotten PBA style of play and lost the bronze.

That silly RP stand against Kazakhstan was indeed an ultimate shame.

It must have crushed what little respect devoted lovers of Pinoy basketball— who joined the expedition to this cool, progressive, neat and very orderly seaside capital—had for the RP national team.

Take the case of PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino. Jun B., reported one lady from the RP media, felt so bad that he failed to go to bed the night after RP team members flaunted their stinking señorito ways and allowed the Kazakhs to steal the Asiad basketball bronze medal.

***

Correction. That stupid loss, which a Kazakh cager punctuated with a completely unmanned stab under the basket, actually appeared like a cheap giveaway.

In fact, other RP team followers here, including several Filipino reporters, had branded the national team setback a national betrayal.

Of course, not all the RP players sent out to do battle made a fool of themselves.

Singled out among the strongest, gutsiest RP performers were Eric Menk, Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela, Rudy Hatfield, Asi Taulava and Jeffrey Cariaso.

Those who closely followed the RP team stint here had singled out an expensive, flatfooted Pangasinense star of his home team who played like a gutless, lost kid here, as the biggest disappointment for the RP team.

***

Anyway, now that our basketball team had lost practically everything, soggy socks included, in this basketball campaign, let's try a final assessment.

The gold medal, symbolic of the championship, is indeed a whole world more precious than the plain, dime-a-dozen bronze medal, a dull glint better than the useless soda pop crown.

So let me rephrase that original question: What's harder to take, losing a basketball title or losing a bronze medal?

The Philippines had all too willingly given the bronze medal to Kazakhstan.

China, on the other hand, lost the gold to Korea but only after a tough, extended battle.

For the record, it was not a mere basketball title China had lost.

With the sustained might it had flashed all over the Asian continent, it would not be an exaggeration to state that China had also lost a kingdom.

***

Actually, I had the chance to see how the Philippines nearly made it to the gold-medal game in that clash against South Korea.

Your reporter here was also there at ringside, before the desk reserved for the seasoned and very able AP photographer Bullit Marquez, for the China-South Korea championship game on Monday.

Let me tell you this: Compared to the Chinese tragedy, the Philippine defeat was a mere tearjerker.

RP players, officials, fans might have cried a river after that heartbreaking setback.

But China sank and had to wade through an ocean of deep misery and irreparable woe after losing its Asiad crown.

***

The Chinese and Philippine basketball teams bid farewell to this post-card pretty Busan harbor, sun-drenched yesterday but suddenly draped in mist and swaying in a thunderstorm this morning.

In China's case, it might be able to solve its problem by simply firing its flamboyant and *papogi* coach, Wang Fei, who proved to be a big liability after he reacted sickeningly late to all the threats and puzzles that came his way during the championship match.

Nothing truly wrong with the Chinese team. It has the sound basics and the proper materials in all departments, mainly the post and the wings.

Unfortunately for China, it failed to fully capitalize on their 7-foot-five pillar, Yao Ming, which the Koreans had wisely drawn away from the board through sharp high-post schemes.

The South Koreans also managed to over-emphasize on a superior back court.

***

To sum it up, China had lost it and South Korea is king of Asian basketball again.

But what about the Philippines, which came here raring to win the crown, despite being armed only with an untested, shallow commercial program?

Would our decision makers finally put up a competitive, global basketball program?

Anyway, because the RP team had lost by only a point to South Korea, the eventual champions, there came ready claims that the Philippines could've tripped the Chinese if we had met them in the Asiad basketball final instead.

That was both funny and absurd.

The Philippine basketball team, deprived of the bronze medal, brings home a rusty, useless pop bottle crown from the basketball battles here.

But blind scavengers can continue to dream.

Malonzo: I didn't sign Gotesco papers

By Tina Santos

THE FINDINGS of the National Bureau of Investigation on the P700-million Gotesco land scam did not name Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo as among those who should be charged in connection with the anomalous land deal.

Malonzo yesterday used the NBI findings to reiterate his stand that he is not involved in the anomaly.

"I did not sign any document regarding the sale," Malonzo said in a statement. "That is why I am in a quandary (as to) how my name has been dragged into this anomaly."

He was reacting to the statements of Representatives Enrico "Recom" Echiverri and Edgar Erice, his former political allies, and former Caloocan mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio that he was the one behind the anomalous land deal.

Malonzo argued that the NBI, which investigated the case of Gotesco Investments Inc., owner and operator of the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall, never mentioned his name as among those who should be charged.

He insisted that he vetoed a 1997 city council ordinance that authorized him to negotiate the sale of the land, but that the council overrode his veto.

The NBI anti-fraud division, which investigated the alleged irregularity, through chief investigator lawyer Carlos Saunar, recommended more than a year ago the filing of charges against government and private officials involved in the sale of the property.

The NBI found Jose Go, owner-president of the GII, liable for swindling, malversation of public funds and violation of the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act in connection with the 1997 sale of the land where the Gotesco mall now stands.

Also named in the NBI report were GII officials, 10 Caloocan City council members, lawyer Yolanda Alfonso of the Registry of Deeds, Commission on Audit Chair Celso Gangan, commissioners Sofronio Ursal and Raul Flores, and COA Special Audit Office director Gregorio Ong.

But the Senate blue ribbon committee investigating the case had earlier asked the Department of Justice to look into the "hesitancy of the NBI to go after private individuals and public officials responsible for the anomalous transfer."

In a 14-page report, copies of which were obtained by the INQUIRER, the Senate committee said the NBI report has not been acted upon by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

It said that according to the NBI, two civil cases were still pending in court and that "in their view, (this) constitutes a prejudicial question calling for the suspension of the proceedings."

"The joint committees (blue ribbon and justice and human rights) are at loss to understand the position of the NBI," the report said.

It said that the NBI report "speaks of anomalies that attended the transaction… (and) regardless of the outcome of the case before the Supreme Court, the NBI's findings are clear—anomalies were indeed committed."

The investigation was triggered by a privilege speech by Sen. Robert Barbers questioning the illegal transfer to GII of the title of the 22,685-square-meter land on Rizal Avenue Extension in Caloocan City. The Cecilo Apostol Elementary School once stood on the land.

TRAFFIC BOTTLENECK

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando (middle) and Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi study a map of the Alabang viaduct. Fresnedi told Fernando of his plans for the busy intersection.

8 cops accused of extortion

By Agnes E. Donato

A MAN accused of drug dealing yesterday turned the tables on his accusers and charged eight Central Police District men of extortion before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Allan Siengh, of Barangay Central, Quezon City, filed charges of robbery-extortion and violation of Section 29, Article II of Republic Act 9165 (or criminal liability for planting of evidence) against the policemen.

Named as respondents were SPO2 Dante Nagaso, PO3 Armando Lasariz, PO3 Jesus Bustamante, PO3 Rodel Deogracias, PO3 Cleto Montegrejo, PO1 Estelity Nortega, PO1 Roberto Manalo and PO1 Peggylyn Vargas. They are all assigned to the CPD Drug Enforcement Unit.

In his complaint, Siengh said the policemen had no reason to arrest him on Oct. 8.

Siengh claimed he was in a billiard hall at the Botanical Garden on Agham Road when he noticed that the eight lawmen were frisking passers-by and taking their cellular phones. He said he was later surprised when the policemen approached and arrested him.

He said the policemen took him to the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal without telling him what offense he committed.

Siengh said the police only informed him of his offense when they got to the camp. There, they told him he was being charged with drug pushing, he said.

He said the lawmen told him they found shabu in his possession.

He said they also showed him P200 in marked money, which he supposedly took from another drug suspect, Jordan Umali, who was also arrested that night.

Siengh said the police even took his borrowed motorcycle.

He claimed he later found out that the policemen arrested four others and also took them to Camp Karingal. But only he and Umali were kept in jail because they failed to produce the P50,000 the police had been demanding.

Siengh denied he was a drug pusher. He said the illegal drugs found on him were planted.

'I'm only following the law'

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government's representative in Manila yesterday stood firm on her decision not to recognize the city barangay league president who was elected under the city council's newly formulated rules.

DILG Manila Director Rhodora V. Licudine said that although the Oct. 21 league election was set by "renegade" barangay chiefs of Manila, the DILG will proceed with the exercise because it is also the date the interior department has chosen for cities nationwide.

"I have the highest respect and esteem for Mayor Lito Atienza, but I'm only following what the law says and what my superior tells me," Licudine told the INQUIRER.

Licudine claimed that city politicians mean to discredit her before the capital's barangay chiefs. She also said Atienza's demand for her ouster is his "prerogative."

On Oct. 3, Atienza wrote Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina saying Licudine and her entire staff should be replaced for failing to assist in, and refusing to validate, the Sept. 15 barangay league elections.

Licudine refused to certify the winner of the Sept. 15 exercise, Barangay 893 chair Carlos Castañeda from Manila's 6th district.

The director instead approved the holding of another preparatory assembly on Sept. 27, which was attended by 495 out of 897 barangays.

DILG National Capital Region chief Serafin Benaldo authorized the gathering in accordance with DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2002-123 dated Aug. 5.

In the Sept. 27 assembly, the chairpersons chose members of five committees that would supervise the Oct. 21 election.

Atienza insists that the election conducted on Sept. 15 is legal because the city council sanctioned it. He accused Licudine of "fomenting disobedience and rebellion."

"Well, what what am I supposed to do?" Licudine asked. "I don't want to be charged with insurbordination. It's a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't situation."

In an Oct. 8 letter to Lina, Licudine said Atienza's request to sack the entire DILG complement in Manila "may imply that they all committed unwarranted acts, which we certainly did not."

Licudine said the Local Government Code states that the barangay league president must be elected by all barangay chairs in the city.

Using the same argument, Licudine refused to certify the election of the Sangguniang Kabataan federation president on Sept. 25. Because of this, winning candidate Francesca Marie Gernale was not able to participate in the SK-Metro Manila election.

Ordinance 8039, which the council passed on June 28, provided the mechanism for electing the city barangay league and Sangguniang Kabataan federation officials.

The ordinance also provided for the election of "district chapter presidents" in the city's six districts. The six DCPs would then choose among themselves the barangay league or SK federation president.

Licudine, who has been DILG-Manila director since 1995, said she does not object to the mayor's aim to make the elections more manageable, inexpensive, truly representative and corruption-free.

She said the intent of the law is to allow the barangay chairpersons to elect among themselves their officers, without interference from city authorities.

She noted that the ordinance did not state who would sit in the board of canvassers, but Atienza issued an order appointing city officials to act as such.

Licudine also regards the new rules as undemocratic because they gave only six people the right to vote for the SK federation or barangay league president.

"The law must first be amended to provide for the mode of election in case of multi-district local government units," she said. "Otherwise, the old rule stays."

Police to charge officer who shot Go suspect

By Philip Tubeza

TO STIFLE talk of a whitewash, the Western Police District said yesterday it will file homicide charges against the policeman who shot dead Victor Macaldo, the suspect in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said homicide charges will be filed against P02 Leslie Teodoro Bautista, of the WPD-District Police Intelligence Unit.

Bulaong said it would be up to Bautista to clear himself before the city prosecutor's office.

Bautista admitted he shot Macaldo after the suspect allegedly grabbed the gun of another policeman on Oct. 8.

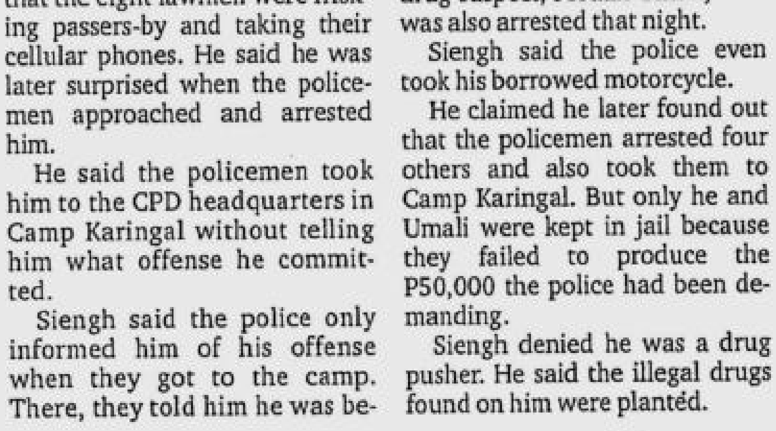
The shooting happened when two motorcycle-riding men allegedly ambushed the jeep Macaldo and three other policemen were riding. They were on their way to court.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, homicide section chief, said the police are still waiting for Macaldo's death certificate before they file the charges.

"We want to disprove allegations that just because he is a fellow policeman, we won't do anything," Taluban said.

But so far, no witness has come forward to contradict the policemen's report that Macaldo was shot in self-defense, Taluban said.

"His mother and relatives have not come back here to file a complaint," he added.



LRT SECURITY

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco (second from right) makes sure that security measures, including the deployment of K-9 units, are in place at the Baclaran LRT terminal to discourage saboteurs. With Velasco is Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, head of the Southern Police District.

WPD: People have nothing to fear

From page A25

He said mobile checkpoints have also been set up around Manila.

Besides the tourist district, the WPD is also guarding the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, the Pandacan oil depot, the Light Rail Transit stations, and other vital government and business installations in the capital.

But Bulaong said that so far, there is no "specific threat" to these places.

Besides looking out for Islamic terrorists, the police are also on guard for possible attacks from the communist New People's Army.

But Bulaong said the NPA is not capable of conducting "conventional attacks."

"We want to tighten security," he said. "I myself don't want private cars to be allowed inside the (WPD) headquarters. But that will inconvenience people."

While reminding people who go out to be careful, he said they should not let fear of terrorists ruin their night life.

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BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30
BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
9 MORNINGS 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
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OCT 17, 2002 "BALLISTIC" TIME 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
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Dinglasan controversy delays pay of MTRCB employees

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHILE accusations of graft and corruption and bribery are being traded by chief censor Mari-len Dinglasan and her detractors in the Movie and Television Review Classification Board (MTRCB), its employees are not getting paid on time.

The board employees made this complaint on Monday even as Dinglasan issued a memorandum saying President Macapagal-Arroyo has given her clearance to continue performing her duties and responsibilities in a hold-over capacity until she is either replaced or re-appointed.

Dinglasan's appointment was supposed to have expired last Sept. 30.

The members of the MTRCB Employees Association on Monday said they receive their salary on a weekly basis but they have not been getting it for two weeks now.

"We ask help from institutions where we can borrow money like the SSS, the GSIS and the Prudential Life Insurance Corp.," employees association president Mina Nacilla said.

She said the MTRCB office could not release funds for the salary of its employees because the release would require Dinglasan's signature.

According to Nacilla, Dinglasan has not been reporting for work regularly since the officers, members and employees of the MTRCB filed graft charges against her before the Office of the Ombudsman last Sept. 4.

MTRCB chief administrative officer Susan Bandolin said a few days after Dinglasan replaced Alejandro Roces as MTRCB chair, she sent a memorandum to the branch manager of Land Bank of the Philippines in Cubao, Quezon City, instructing him not to acknowledge any checks or vouchers that do not carry her signature.

Landbank Cubao is the authorized depository bank of the MTRCB.

"She revoked the authority of the officers to sign the vouchers," Bandolin said. "Now, we cannot release funds to pay the employees and even our electricity bills. This is a first in the history of the MTRCB."

Nacilla added: "We have already sent several letters to President Macapagal-Arroyo imploring her to act on the matter. We hope that she will come up with a decision soon."

Under MTRCB rules, the signatures of either Dinglasan or Bandolin as principal signatory and of Nacilla or Executive Director Raquel Rey as alternate signatory should appear in all checks or vouchers to be issued by the MTRCB.

But Dinglasan said "it is just natural for me to inform the bank that my signature will be appearing on all MTRCB documents and not Chairman Roces' anymore."

Dinglasan said Bandolin, in a memo dated Oct. 4, questioned her right to perform the duties of an MTRCB chief since her term of office was supposed to have expired 30.

On Monday, Dinglasan sent a memorandum to MTRCB employees saying she spoke with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who "has given (Dinglasan) clearance to continue performing (her) functions, duties and responsibilities . . . under a hold-over capacity until either replaced or re-appointed so as not to disrupt office function."

She said she has signed the release of the employees' salaries but want people to know that "the delay could not be attributed to the fault, negligence or inaction of this Office but has been caused primarily by (Bandolin's) memorandum."

"Had she (Bandolin) not questioned my right as chairman, the employees would have received their wages by now," Dinglasan said.

Dinglasan on Sept. 26 filed before the Department of Justice charges of bribery and graft and corruption against Bandolin, Rey, a construction company and its architect.

Rey said Dinglasan's charges were lies and that Bandolin, architect Luis M. Zialcita and C. A. Ventura and Partners contractor Eduardo Ventura and herself would sue Dinglasan for perjury and malicious persecution.

"No bribery incident ever happened," Bandolin said.

"Our lawyers advised us not to go over the details with the media. All our transactions are documented," Rey added. "We are ready to face her in court."

On Oct. 8, President Macapagal-Arroyo was quoted by another paper as saying she had appointed MTCRB vice chair June Keithly as officer in charge while the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) was investigating the graft and corruption case against Dinglasan.

DINGLASAN

Dinglasan said there is no truth to Keithly's appointment as officer in charge. She said the President herself told her so.

The INQUIRER last Wednesday called up Keithly but she refused to comment.

Marvin vs Jolina on Sunday afternoons

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DID ABS-CBN mean to pit a show starring **Marvin Agustin** against a show with **Jolina Magdangal** in the same time slot on GMA 7?

Marvin joined the cast of the Sunday afternoon drama series, "Tabing-Ilog," last Sept. 29. He is paired with **Kaye Abad**, who plays Eds, the troubled heroine.

Interestingly enough, "Tabing Ilog" is directly up against the time slot of GMA 7's "Kahit Kailan," topbilled by Jolina, Marvin's erstwhile love-team partner.

For quite some time, Marvin and Jolina were the love team to beat. Aside from their TV shows, they also had a number of hit movies.

Will Marvin's presence in "Tabing Ilog" boost the show's ratings? Will "Tabing Ilog" fare better than Jolina's "Kahit Kailan"?

GARY V fills the new Tavern on the Square with his energy.

Meanwhile, Marvin has his hands full with other shows on ABS-CBN. He displays his comic side in "Whattamen," and his flair for hosting in the daily noontime program, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Marvin recently put on the director's hat when he directed the music video for "Hanggang," an entry in this year's "Himig Handog sa Kabataang Pilipino," interpreted by **Wency Cornejo**.

It was not his first time, though. He also directed the MTV for **Jeffrey Hidalgo**'s "Cyberkada."

After the "Himig Handog" contest, Marvin will go to the United States to study film directing. He has been very vocal about his intent to become a director.

Who knows, Marvin might even direct a movie one day?

"That's really one of my biggest dreams," he says.

In the meantime, he juggles his time between two film projects. He works for the first time with **Vilma Santos** in **Chito Roño**'s period drama, "Dekada '70." He also plays son to **Ai-Ai de las Alas** in "Tanging Ina."

Tavern reopens

TAVERN on the Square will always be close to the hearts of many performers who started their careers in the popular music lounge, which was the entertainment venue in the '80s.

Gary Valenciano, **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, The Rage (with **Juan Miguel Salvador** and **Marissa Bunag**), Powerplay and Side A Band (then known as FM Band) started in the Tavern.

The people who packed the lounge in the basement of the LPL Tower on Legaspi Street, Makati, also have fond memories of their Tavern experiences.

Recently, Tavern had a grand re-opening in Greenbelt 3, the newest urban and leisure center in Makati. The well-attended event was full of stars, music, fun and laughter, hosted by owners **Wyngard Tracy**, **Girlie Rodis** and **Sandra Chavez**.

AGUSTIN. MTV director

The night turned out to be a reunion for the artists who performed in the Tavern in the '80s, like **Kuh Ledesma** with the Music and Magic. One of the group's members, **Fe de los Reyes**, who was based in the United States for a long time, regaled the Tavern crowd during the re-opening.

The Tavern is expected to bring back to today's entertainment scene what made it a great and exciting place before, like good music, top performers, the hottest bands, comedy shows and new faces.

During the re-opening, The Rage rocked the house with the band's string of '80s hits.

Most of the artists who were there also sang a number or two, so the guests were treated to nonstop entertainment. Among the performers were Gary Valenciano, Zsa Zsa Padilla and the comedy quartet of **Leo Martinez**, **Tessie Tomas**, Fe de los Reyes and **Mitch Valdes**.

Also seen at the opening were **Maricel Soriano**, **Rachel Alejandro** and cousin **Nino Alejandro**, **Agot Isidro** with hubby **Manu Sandejas** and sister **Olive Isidro**.

Last Tuesday, **Lani Misalucha** kicked off the Tavern's "Intimate Performances" series.

This month, the likes of Gary Valenciano and **Regine Velasquez** are performing in the posh entertainment venue.

Regular bands featured in the Tavern, aside from Rage, are Route 70, League of Cayuca, Big, Prime Council, Powerplay and Barbie's Cradle.

'Othello' updated for young viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN students are required to read plays by **William Shakespeare** in school, they complain about the old, convoluted language, all those soliloquys, the mustiness of the dramatic situations, and their general irrelevance to life today.

That's why some new productions of Shakespeare's dramas and comedies have pared down the plots and language, and updated the time frame to modern times.

The most successful example of this is **Baz Luhrman**'s "Romeo + Juliet," which made Shakespeare exciting all over again. But the filmmaker's jazzing up, albeit well-intentioned, became excessive and distracting in some scenes.

We trust that lessons have been learned, and that the latest update on a Shakespearean tragedy, "O" (for "Othello"), wout be as far-out. This new version of the tragedy of the jealous Moor has been brought up to contemporary times. Even more drastically, it's no longer set in Venice, but in a high school basketball court in the States!

Will the radical shift work? Well, years ago, on a theater tour of the United States, we saw a new version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" *also* transposed to a US high school, and it worked wonderfully well.

The play's vision, essence, meaning and poetry were retained, and the production became excitingly accessible to teen viewers without the distractions and distortions occasionally evident in "Romeo + Juliet." We thrust that the "Othello" update, as "O," will be similarly effective.

In its transposed story, O (for Odin) is a star basketball player, who's got it all. Not only is he the biggest man on campus, but he's also loved by a beautiful girl, Desi (an update on the original character's name, Desdemona).

Unknown to them, however covetous Hugo (for the original Iago) wants both O's fame *and* his beloved. He's the son of the school's basketball coach, and can't stand his father's loving O as though he were his son.

So, as in the original play, Hugo manipulates the other characters to make O believe that Desi is being unfaithful to him, and thus brings about the campus hero's downfall.

'OTHELLO'/A30

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FOR HALLOWEEN, Spirits Malate Coyote Bar will live up to its name. And it is because it will have kid stuff like trick-or-treat.

Spirits Malate Coyote Bar will hold the "Wild Whimsical Fantasy Ball" on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 9 pm. It is a wild party-masquerade-costume contest all in one, a Mardi Gras right in Malate.

Spirits enjoin you to live up to your fantasy, let your hair down, discard your usual self, and be your most creative and outrageous. Be a vampire, or be the abominable Snow Man. Bring your favorite comic super hero to life. Be a diva or a siren. Howl like a werewolf. Anything goes as long as it is out of this world.

The highlight of the evening will be the costume contest. The grand prize for the most outrageous costume will be P10,000. The one wearing the most colorful costume will receive P2,500, and the most original P2,500. There will be consolation prizes of P1,000 each.

Special prizes will include a round trip air ticket and a weekend stay at Club Panoly in Boracay and Villa al Pino in Baguio City.

Each participant will receive P300 worth of gift certificates, courtesy of Malate Coyote Bar.

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Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo

MIYERKULES, OKTUBRE 16, 2002

20 NAG-ALMUSAL NG SARI-SARING NESTLÉ PRODUCTS, NABUSOG NG TIG-ISANG MILYON!

Araw-araw, wala silang ginawa kundi mag-almusal at magpadala ng entries sa Mag-Nestlé Almusal Gising Milyonaryo promo. Kaya't noong Oktubre 12, habang nanunood ng Grand Draw sa Magandang Tanghali Bayan, laking tuwa nila nang tawagin ang kanilang mga pangalan. Mula sa iba't ibang parte ng Pilipinas, ang mga bagong milyonaryo ay sina:

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Nanaginip ng gising?

50 nanalo ng P50,000 each!

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"Basta tayo'y magkagrasya, laging mayroong umagang kay ganda" ang masayang inawit ng isa sa nagwagi ng P100,000. Isa siya sa mga sumusunod na pangalan ng mga nanalo:

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CONGRATULATIONS SA MGA NAGWAGI!

Ipagpatuloy ninyo ang pagkain ng Nestlé almusal para feeling winner kayo sa buong araw... buong linggo... maski buong taon!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0541 Series of 2002

'Othello' updated for young viewers

From page A28

We hope that the updates won't dilute the original play's complex study of the seductiveness of jealousy, both on Iago's and Othello's part, with Desdemona as the tragic victim, after Othello's suspicious and consequent cruelty cause her mind to snap.

The danger is that, by situating the central conflict on the high school level, it could lose some of its scope, depth and tragic resonances.

To lessen then chance of that happening, director **Tim Blake Nelson** has cast the much-admired young actress, **Julia Stiles**, as Desi. For Hugo, he's tapped **Josh Hartnett**, whose past film roles haven't really been all that challenging. So, it isn't sure if he can do full justice to his subtly malevolent, pivotal role.

The biggest unknown factor here is **Mekhi Pheifer** as O. The tragic drama's title role is enormously demanding, which is why it made **Laurence Olivier** such a sensation when he essayed it many years ago. Will young Pheifer be able to approximate Olivier's celebrated thespic tour de force?

Three Sopranos

SOPRANOS **Ana Luisa Espinosa, Josephine Roces-Chavez** and **Rachel Gerodias** will render Spanish and Filipino songs at 7 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Call 526-1482.

Another performance has been scheduled for Oct. 20 at the City Sports Club in Cebu City.

Spanish filmfest

GREENBELT Cinema **1** is the venue for the screening of some Spanish films, leading off on Oct. 20 with (11:30 a.m.) "La Ardilla Roja"; (2 p.m.) "Bwana"; (4:30 p.m.) "Goya En Burdeos"; (7 p.m.) "Solas"; and (9:30 p.m.) "Tesis." Call 526-1482 for more information.

'Vagina Monologues' repeats

THE NEW Voice Company's Production of "The Vagina Monologues" will be performed anew next month in both its English and Filipino versions at Music Museum.

The English version, directed by **Andrew Vergara**, topbills **Belinda Panelo, Sheila Francisco** and **Angel Aquino**, and will be performed on Nov. 8, 9, 15, and 16.

Rito Asilo directs the Filipino version, with performance dates on Nov. 22, 23, 29 and 30. It will be performed by **Gina Alajar, Pinky Amador** and **Angelu de Leon**. Call 891-5610.

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Boulevard treats RJ fans

GRAND Boulevard Hotel rocks with Ramon Jacinto and offers guests a treat through the "RJ @ the Grand Boulevard" package.

Rock and roll with RJ and get additional privileges for only P1,945.00. The RJ @ the Grand Boulevard package consists of overnight accommodation, welcome drink upon check-in, buffet dinner at Café Fontana, an RJ show at the Beck's Bar with one round of drinks, and a buffet breakfast at the Coffee Shop.

It also offers fee entrance to Casino Filipino with a bonus bet of P200 per person and use of the hotel's non-rental facilities.

For reservations, call 526-8588, locals 7315 and 7316.

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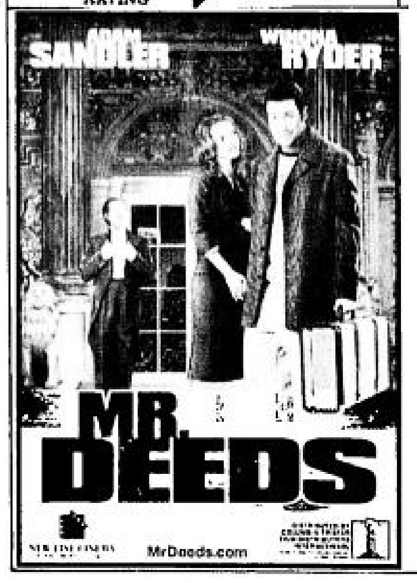


MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Laugh, fall in love !
SECOND WEEK

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

AYALA CINEMAS
"TWO THUMBS UP!" — Ebert & Roeper
"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!" — Rollingstone
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
RUPERT EVERETT · COLIN FIRTH · FRANCIS O'CONNOR · REESE WITHERSPOON · JUDI DENCH
Directed by Oliver Parker
Based on a play by Oscar Wilde
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
THE COFFEE CLUB
NOW SHOWING
Only at ARTFILM GREENBELT 1
Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

Instituto Cervantes ¡FIESTA! AYALA CINEMAS ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

October 20 (Sun)
La Ardilla Roja 11:30pm
Bwana 2:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuello 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

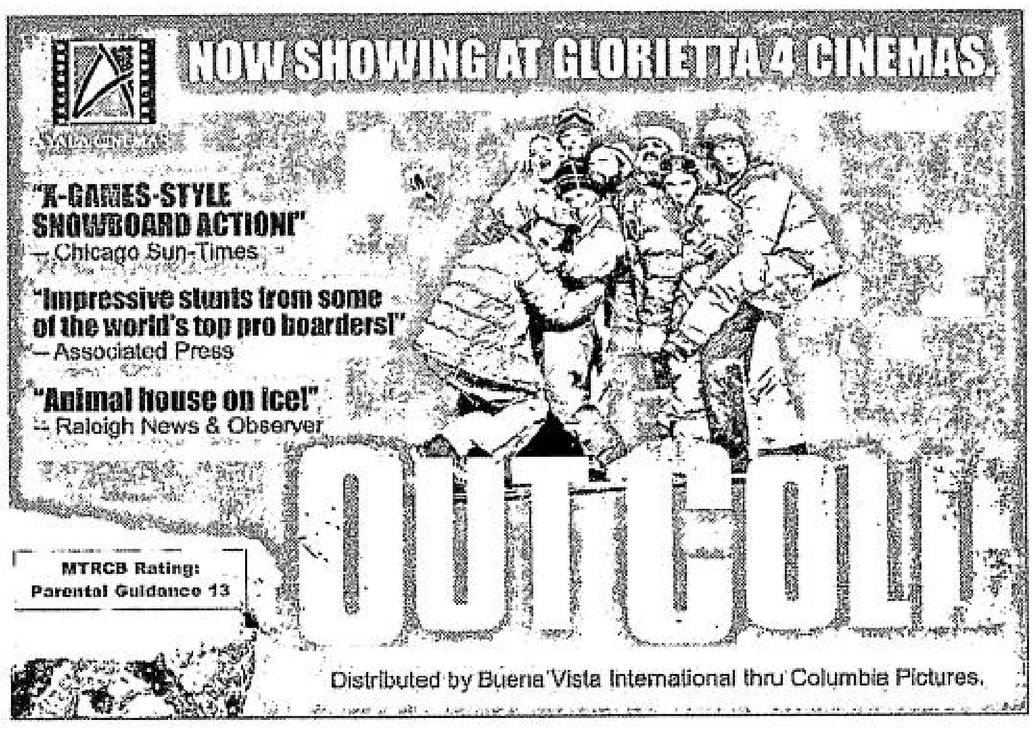
October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 224 (Thu)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

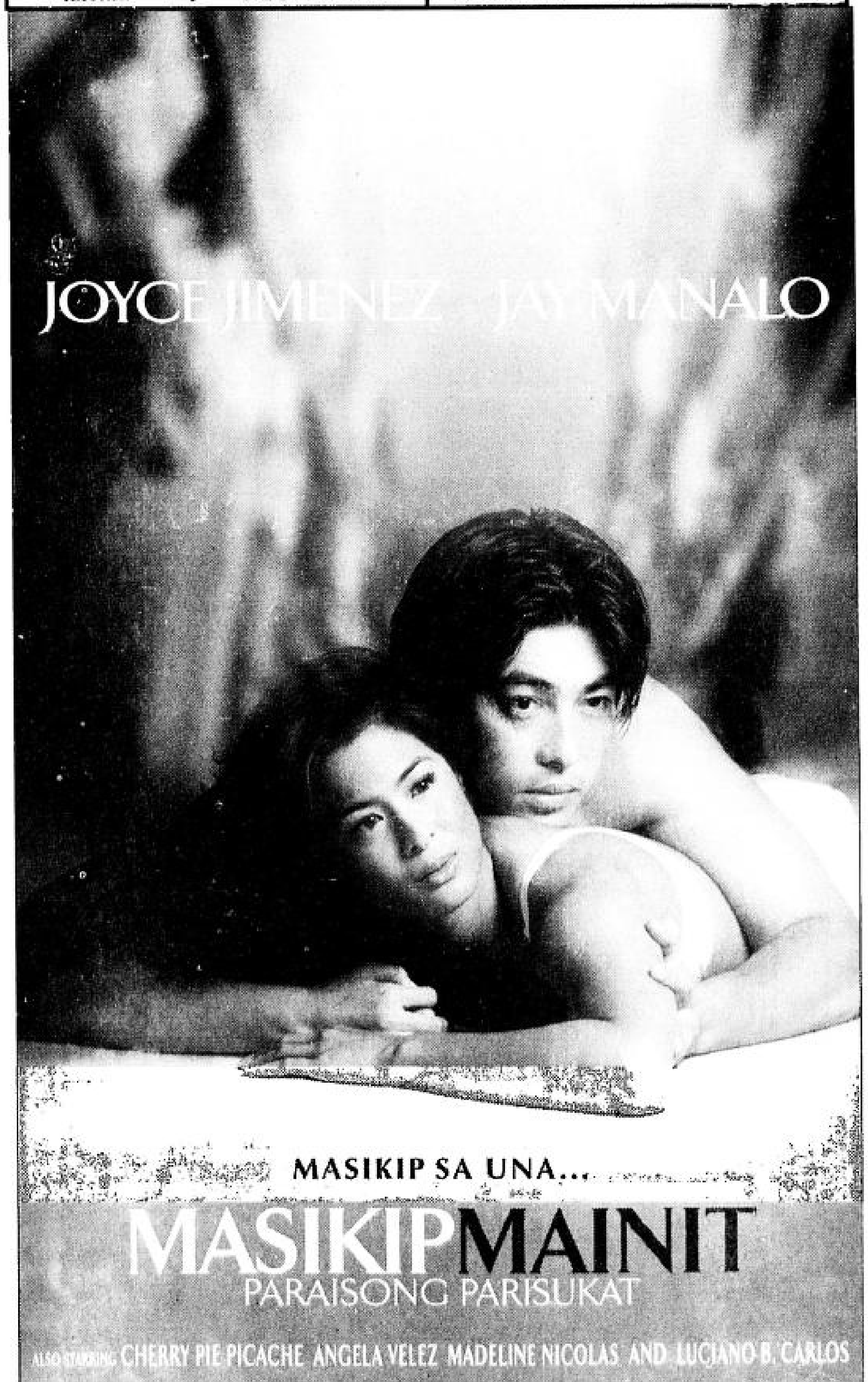
NOKIA INQUIRER



NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS.
AYALA CINEMAS
"X-GAMES-STYLE SNOWBOARD ACTION!" — Chicago Sun-Times
"Impressive stunts from some of the world's top pro boarders!" — Associated Press
"Animal house on ice!" — Raleigh News & Observer
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures.

Jeannie
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?

MAY MGA BAGAY NA, 'IKA NGA WORTH WAITING FOR.
Robin Padilla. Judy Ann Santos. ...together.
Isang wish come true.
Jeannie Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?
Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava
DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.
VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY Rexona REV-X LEONARDO
SHOWING NA SA OCTOBER 23!



GRAND OPENING TODAY !
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
JOYCE JIMENEZ JAY MANALO
MASIKIP SA UNA...
MASIKIP MAINIT
PARAISONG PARISUKAT
ALSO STARRING CHERRY PIE PICACHE ANGELA VELEZ MADELINE NICOLAS AND LUCIANO B. CARLOS
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES DGPI
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION

'Red Dragon' very much in the black

LOS ANGELES—Hannibal Lecter stood out in a crowd of new movies.

"Red Dragon," the third thriller starring Anthony Hopkins as serial killer Lecter, was the No. 1 movie for a second weekend, taking in $17.6 million and fending off an onslaught of debut films, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Reese Witherspoon's romantic comedy "Sweet Home Alabama" remained in second place with $14.1 million.

"Brown Sugar," a romance starring Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan as longtime pals who become lovers, was the strongest of six new wide releases, debuting at No. 3 with $11.1 million.

Among other new wide-release movies:

"The Transporter," an action flick about a courier seeking revenge against mobsters, opened in fourth place with $9.2 million.

"White Oleander," a mother-daughter drama with Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright Penn and Alison Lohman, came in seventh with $5.7 million.

"Tuck Everlasting," a fountain-of-youth fantasy with Sissy Spacek, William Hurt and Ben Kingsley, was No. 8 with $5.5 million.

"Knockaround Guys," a mob thriller starring Barry Pepper, Vin Diesel and John Malkovich, was ninth with $5 million.

"The Rules of Attraction," based on Bret Easton Ellis' novel about self-destructive twentysomethings, was No. 12 with $2.4 million.

Adam Sandler and Emily Watson's "Punch-Drunk Love," written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson ("Magnolia"), had a fantastic opening in limited release. A bizarre romance between misfits, "Punch-Drunk Love" took in $380,000 at just five theaters in New York City, Los Angeles and Toronto, an average of $76,000 a cinema.

By comparison, Madonna's new romance "Swept Away," directed by her husband Guy Ritchie, bombed with $375,000 at 196 theaters, averaging $1,913. The movie, a remake of a 1974 Italian film, received little praise from critics.

"Punch-Drunk-Love" has been warmly received since its premiere at last spring's Cannes Film Festival, with Sandler's transformation from teen-flick clown to lovelorn oddball catching viewers by surprise.

Distributor Sony chose to roll the film out slowly to build word of mouth, rather than dumping it in thousands of theaters the way most big movies debut. "Punch-Drunk Love" expands gradually to wide release through early November.

"This is not an Adam Sandler youth picture," said Tom Sherak, a partner in Revolution Films, which produced "Punch-Drunk Love." "It's a grown-up movie that just needs to breathe a little before you go into wide release."

Another acclaimed movie, Michael Moore's documentary "Bowling for Columbine," debuted robustly with $206,000 at eight theaters for a $25,750 average. Left-wing rabble-rouser Moore ("Roger & Me") blends humor and tragedy in examining America's gun culture.

The animated "Pokemon 4Ever" opened in 249 theaters and took in $675,000, averaging $2,711.

Debuting in four theaters, Jerry Seinfeld's stand-up comedy documentary "Comedian" took in $61,000 for a healthy $15,250 average. *AP*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	"O"
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1: 9 MORNINGS 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 2: MR. DEEDS 12:15, 2:25, 4:35 6:45, 8:55 P 13
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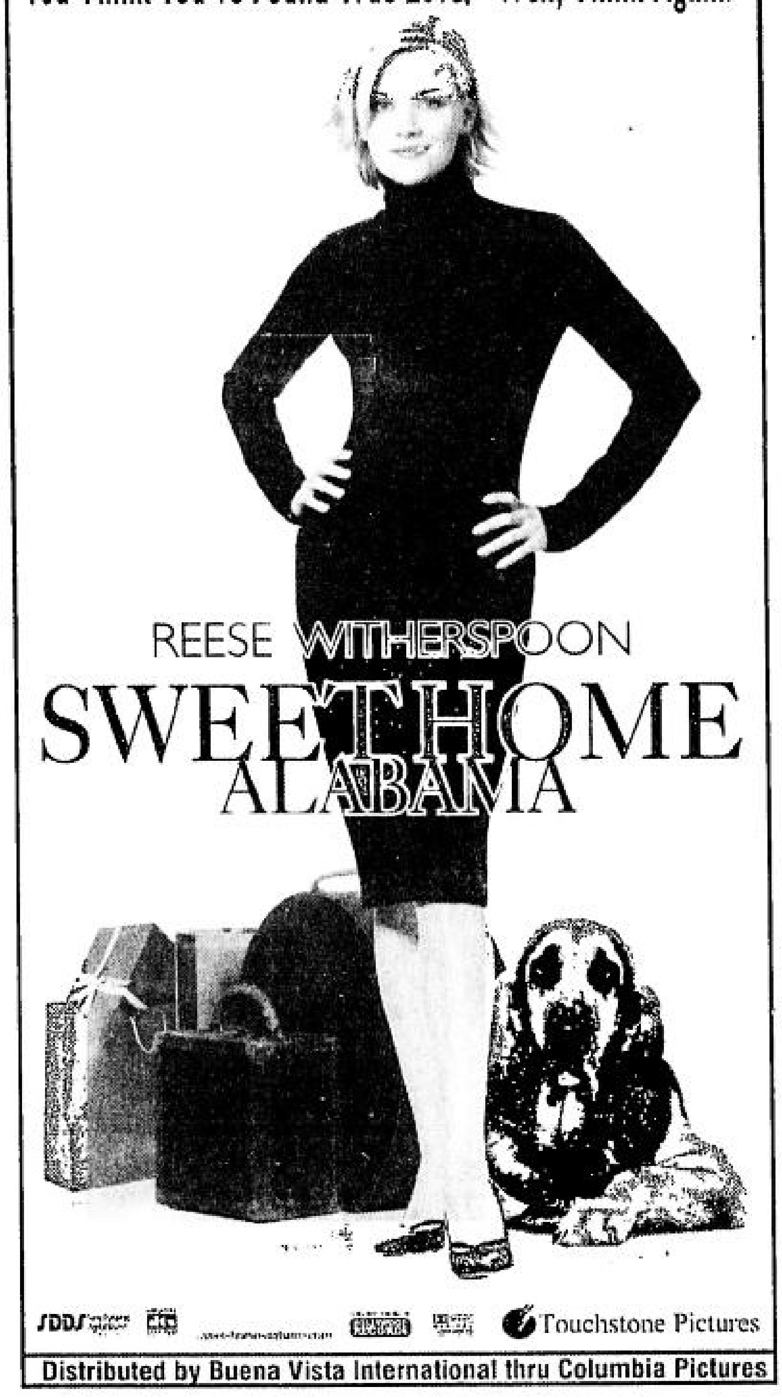
You Think You've Found True Love? Well, Think Again.



REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TUXEDO P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	9 MORNINGS GP 12:35,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	MR. DEEDS P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00
POSSESSION P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	BLOODWORK P13 12:10,2:30,4:50, 7:10,9:30	BALLISTIC P13 11:45,1:50,3:55, 6:00,8:05,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

NOW SHOWING!
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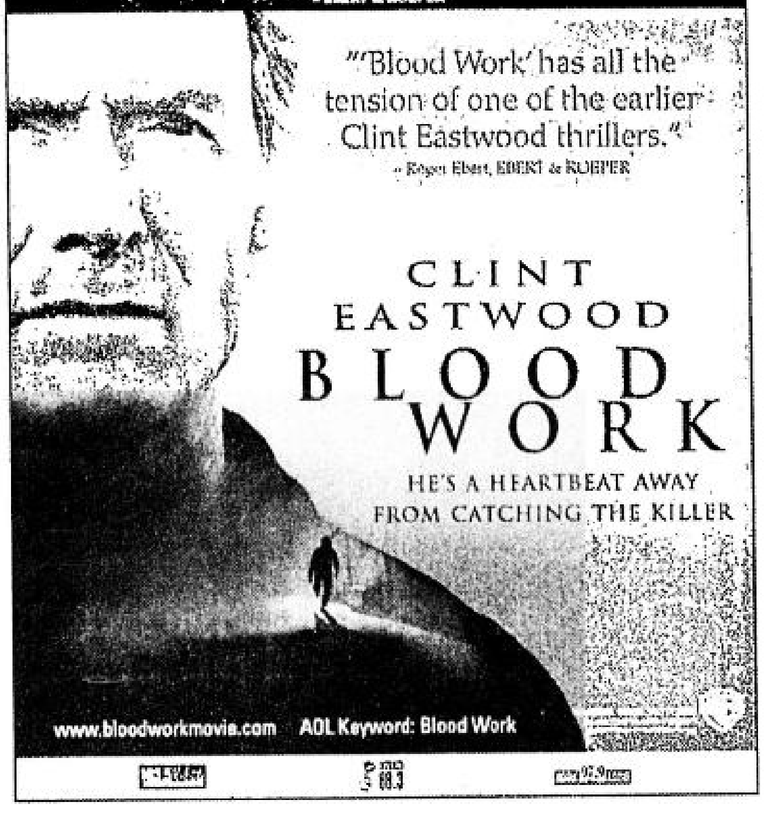
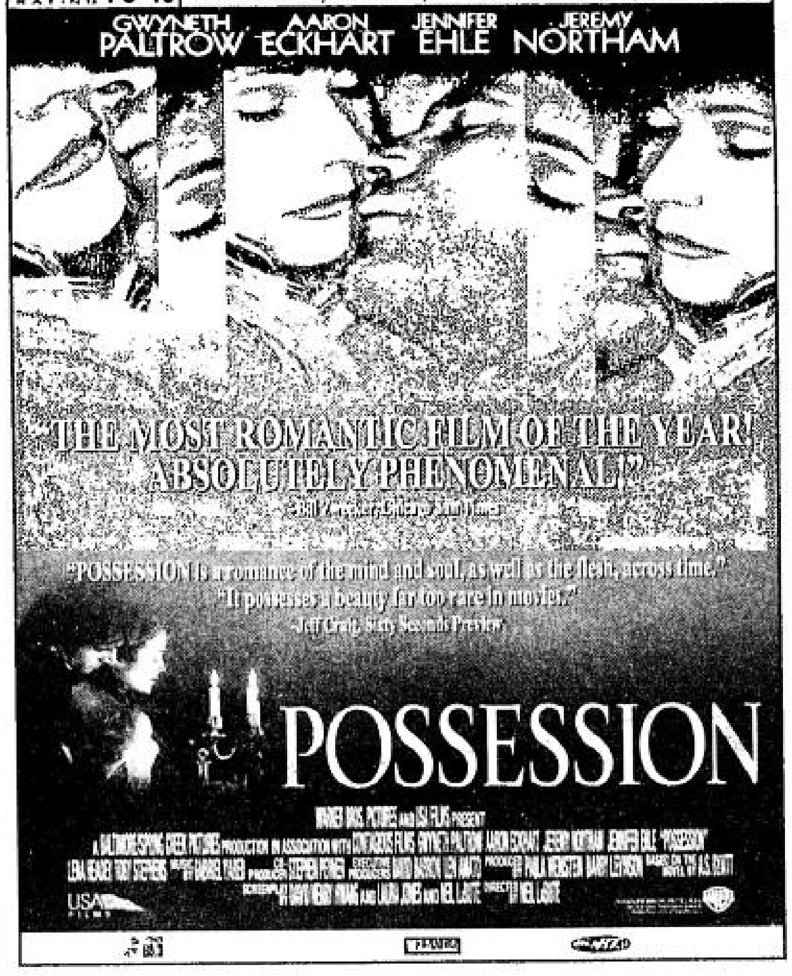
"TWO THUMBS UP!" - EBERT & ROEPER



"'Blood Work' has all the tension of one of the earlier Clint Eastwood thrillers."
- Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER
CLINT EASTWOOD
BLOOD WORK
HE'S A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM CATCHING THE KILLER
www.bloodworkmovie.com AOL Keyword: Blood Work

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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-Jeff Craig, Sixty Seconds Preview
POSSESSION

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JACKIE CHAN JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT
HE'S NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE...
HE'S WEARING IT.
THE TUXEDO
NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
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LIVE FOR LOVE WITH 9 MORNINGS !!!

PIOLO PASCUAL
DONITA ROSE
For the first time...
After all this time...
I believe.
9 Mornings
Max's
MERRELL
STAR CINEMA

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

MICHELLE Bayle

10 sex stars together

TEN of the sexiest actresses in local show biz together in one sizzling dance concert!

Maui Taylor, Lana Asanin, Regine Tolentino, Lolita de Leon, Aleck Bovick, Michelle Bayle, Jenny Miller, Glydel Mercado, Maureen Larrazabal and Diana Zubiri will strut their stuff in "Showgirls: A Dance Concert" on Oct 25, 9 p.m., at the Casino Filipino-Parañaque.

With guest artists Marissa Sanchez, Alynna and Selina Sevilla and back-up dancers Whiplash and Groove Manila, the sex sirens will perform numbers inspired by Madonna, Janet Jackson, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez, Gloria Estefan, Cher and Shakira. Each sexy star will have her own dance number, complete with costumes.

This is the first time that the 10 shapely stars will come together for a concert.

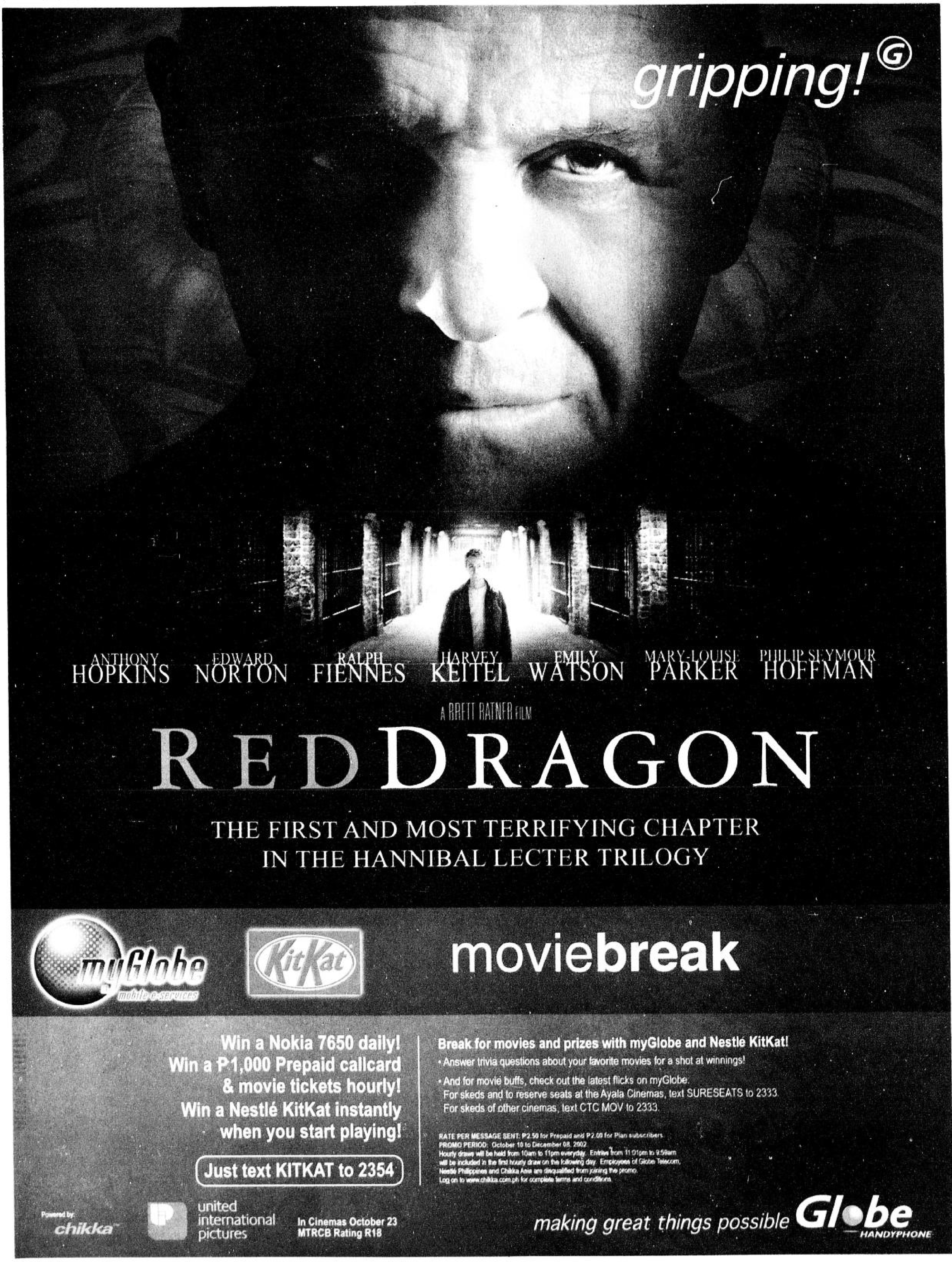
Knowing how daring they are on the big screen, how much more daring will they be in the flesh, live on stage?

"Showgirls: A Dance Concert" is produced by Live Artists Production. For ticket inquiries, please call Live Artists Production at 920-2643 or 0918-922-1542.

GLYDEL Mercado

ALECK Bovick

REGINE Tolentino



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In Cinemas October 23
MTRCB Rating R18

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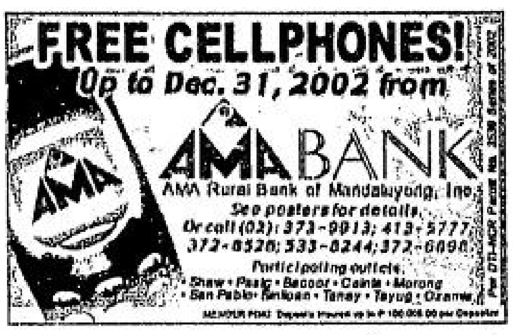

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Gov't seen to defer $1-B bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNCERTAIN market conditions have prompted the government to postpone to early next year the planned sale of $500 million to $1 billion worth of 10-year global bonds.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said there was a good chance for the global bond float to be scheduled in January next year instead of this fourth quarter, denying market talk that the government was already planning to tap the global market for funds "very soon."

"We could afford to postpone the global bond for January since we do not need the money. There really is no compelling reason to do it now," said Edeza, stressing that the proceeds of the planned borrowing were meant to finance the 2003 deficit.

He said the government would rather wait for market reactions to settle on the bombing in Bali, Indonesia, the presidential elections in Brazil, and the nine-month deficit of the government.

He dismissed speculations that the government had started to solicit underwriting offers for the global bonds.

"We have to give the market enough time to breathe. The dust may settle in two weeks and that's when we would evaluate the global bonds again," he added.

EDEZA

The nine-month budget gap would be announced next week, most likely on Monday and the market believed the number had grown to P160 billion as of September from P144 billion in August.

The result of the elections in Brazil is crucial for the sentiment on emerging markets like the Philippines. The bombing in Bali had affected regional currencies and spreads on debt papers.

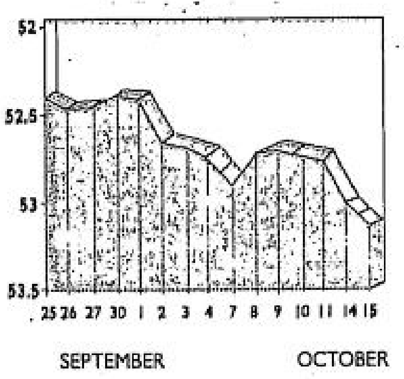
"Now is not the good time to go to the market because it is very volatile," Edeza said.

The Philippines has $1.2 billion worth of securities registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that it could readily tap to float global bonds.

Edeza said the government might be partial to doing the 10-year global bonds in January to align the planned debt paper to a previous offering that would mature in 2013.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.135= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 15, 2002

¥ 124.49= $ 1

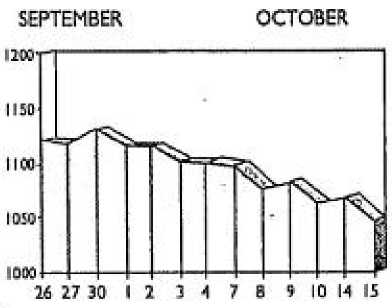
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 15, 2002

GOLD: $317.40-317.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 15, 2002

Stocks near 11-month low on Bali blast

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS closed at the lowest in nearly 11 months yesterday as the market turned a blind eye to gains on Wall Street, focusing instead on peace and order concerns in the region following the deadly weekend blasts in Indonesia.

Volumes remained light as the market reverted to its half-day trading schedule.

The Philippine Stock Exchange had experimented for about eight months with extended trading hours that included a one-and-a-half hour session in the afternoon, but it did not result in any marked improvement in turnover.

While other regional markets took their cue from the Dow Jones' rebound, the local market was more cautious as the main index came closer to breaking 12-month lows.

"We are not ignoring it (the Dow's climb), there's just a lack of volume in the market. There's a lack of investor participation, that's why the market is not reflecting the sentiment of other markets," said Mark Canizares, an analyst at Citisecurities Inc.

Overall turnover rose to P373.5 million against Monday's P110.8 million, but it was still considered low. Losers were in a four-to-one majority over gainers.

Canizares said investors adopted a wait-and-see attitude as the market neared the 1,040 point immediate support in the main index.

The main index lost 19.82 points or 1.86 percent to end at 1,047.69 points, its lowest close since November last year.

Reuters

TURF WAR

House to probe MRT delay

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS will investigate the unwarranted delays in the implementation of phase 2 of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit project, which would link the existing rail transit in Metro Manila into one seamless loop.

Caloocan Rep. Edgar R. Erise said the congressional inquiry would continue even as he welcomed the assurance made by Transportation Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza on the construction of a connecting rail from the Edsa MRT's North Avenue station in Quezon City to the Monumento station of the Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Erise said Congress would remain "vigilant" on the implementation of the project, which would serve residents of Novaliches, Caloocan, Navotas, Malabon, Bulacan and Pampanga and generate savings of $55 million for the government.

In a privilege speech delivered last week, Erise questioned the undue delay in implementing the Edsa MRT phase 2 project, which was traced to a turf war between Mendoza and Presidential Adviser on Strategic Projects Gloria Tan Climaco.

"These people (Mendoza and Climaco) are quarreling as to who among them would implement the project. First, it was Mendoza who is in charge of the project then Climaco claimed she was in charge. A week ago, Mendoza claimed he was back on top of the project," Erise said.

Erise said the congressional probe was being made to look into the "seeming turf war" between Mendoza and Climaco which has delays in the project. Erise estimated that a one-year delay could lead to potential losses of P860 million for the government.

Erise noted that it has been 76 months since the Edsa MRT project was submitted to the government and nearly three months since the Investment Coordinating Council-National Economic and Development Authority gave the green light last July 18, 2002.

He stressed the importance of the project to the Edsa MRT and LRT 1 lines in reaching their full commuter volume potential as well as increase the viability of upcoming transport lines. Erise said he expected the extension project to increase the number of riders by 50 percent, which should lead to additional profits of P17 billion over the next 10 years.

Asean, China discuss trade pact framework

SINGAPORE—Officials from Southeast Asia and China have begun a two-day meeting to draft a framework for comprehensive economic relations including a free trade pact, Singapore said yesterday.

Representatives from the 10-member nations that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) were meeting with their Chinese counterparts, a Ministry of Trade and Industry spokesperson said in a statement.

The sixth round of talks was to discuss the framework to an agreement on Asean-China comprehensive economic cooperation, he said.

Asean and China have yet to agree on a list of products to be covered by early tariff cuts under an "early harvest" element in the proposed free trade agreement, which would cover nearly two billion people and will be the world's biggest free trade zone if implemented.

Under this element, China should cut tariffs on Asean imports as a goodwill gesture

ASEAN/ B2

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DIESEL MAX
Above all diesels

DTI initiative eases pressure on labor front

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday claimed that a government initiative to allay labor-management disputes last year has resulted into fewer strikes.

During the bi-annual dialogue with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the quick reaction team (QRT) was able to play a more aggressive and pro-active role in labor dispute resolution.

"I note that labor dispute is no longer the most pressing issue," Roxas said. But a recent survey among Japanese companies operating in the Philippines showed that a quick resolution of labor problems was still one of six major issues that they wanted the government to address immediately.

The other problems were safety and security, weak infrastructure, industrial waste disposal, refund of value added tax, and foreign currency-based financial statement.

The DTI and the Department of Labor and Employment formed the QRT last year at the height of a labor strike at Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. that shut down for nearly a month the factory of the country's largest vehicle assembler. The government was forced to take the initiative after Toyota and other major Japanese assemblers warned that they would pull out due to worsening labor unrest.

Roxas claimed the QRT has so far proven it effectiveness as the DTI and DOLE have been able to nip in the bud disturbances in the labor front by conducting visits and dialogues at the first sign of trouble.

The DTI and DOLE conducted orientations on QRT for Japanese locators in the Subic and Clark economic zones and the Lima Industrial estate to train them on collective bargaining negotiations.

The DTI assisted companies engaged in various business activities such as automotive assembly, automotive parts, electronics, garments, and hotel and tourism-related operations.

Destiny, Star resume talks on TV channels

By Abigail L. Ho

DESTINY Cable Inc. is negotiating with program provider Star Group Ltd. for the provision of four other channels after the latter's pullout of its five top-rating channels from the cable operator's lineup yesterday.

With the Makati regional trial court denying Destiny's petition for a temporary restraining order on Star Group's channel pullout, the cable operator just chose to enter into a new contract with the program provider.

In a letter to the National Telecommunications Commission late Monday, Star Regional Private Ltd. regional director Charles Pollard confirmed that a negotiation for new channels was indeed taking place between the two parties.

"Destiny Cable wrote to us this afternoon (Monday) and confirmed their desire to enter into a new contract with Star to carry four other channels in Metro Manila. To show good faith, and even after the acrimony of the last seven days, and in the absence of a signed contract, I have nevertheless instructed that access to (these) four channels shall continue uninterrupted whilst we complete the contractual paperwork," he said.

Star Group yesterday removed from Destiny's lineup its top five channels: ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic.

In lieu of these, the carriage of four other channels—Viva Cinema, Fox News, Star Mandarin and Channel V International—was being negotiated, according to Destiny's marketing manager Richard Rodriguez.

While Destiny and Star Group were already back on the negotiating table, the NTC said it would still continue its probe on the matter.

NTC acting commissioner Armi Jane Borje said in an interview yesterday that the regulatory body would still be asking Star TV for its specific reasons on the channel pullout from Destiny.

"We have to be proactive here. we have to look into anything that will affect consumers' interest. What happens when we reach a situation when Star will only allow carriage to one cable operator? That will be monopoly. It's like we'll just be allowing any entity to control the industry if we don't do anything about this," she said.

She related that she had already consulted with NTC's legal department on how it could more effectively protect local cable operators and consumers if a case like this would come up again.

She added that the NTC would continue to look into existing laws to further strengthen its stand on cable television issues.

Pollard, for his part, said the program provider would be explaining its reasons to the NTC in a letter it was preparing.

Asean, China discuss trade pact framework

From page B1

for the regional bloc which already has lower tariff rates.

The cuts should be made well ahead of the full implementation of the FTA, which is expected to be worked out within the next decade.

Senior officials from Asean and China aim to reach an agreement on the unresolved issues during the two-day meeting.

Leaders of Asean and China are to sign the framework during a summit in Cambodia in November.

Asean consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 20, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	668,200,704
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,977,467,508
Due from Other Banks		683,228,560
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,269,111,954
Trading Account Securities (Net)		521,085,826
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		26,120,101,376
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		12,979,398,244
Equity Investments (Net)		1,107,121,112
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,488,627,773
Other Assets (Net)		9,155,912,053
Property Owned/Acquired		5,643,982,117
Others		3,511,929,936
TOTAL ASSETS	P	68,970,255,110
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	10,389,842,280
Savings Deposits		18,294,777,429
Time Deposits		11,751,635,115
Special/Other Deposits		6,898,559
Due to Bangko Sentral		14,100,335
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,078,701,380
Bills Payable:		8,914,665,519
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		7,676,169,809
Others		1,219,450,042
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		818,666,085
Other Liabilities		4,543,620,298
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	55,812,907,000
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,016,066,130
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,157,348,110
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	68,970,255,110
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	80,032,547
Bills for Collection		49,071,224
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		14,827,365,809
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,931,946,610
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,638,925,052
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,793,599,932
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		217,121,187
Loans & Discounts		10,341,497
Other Assets		3,617,862,436
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,667,470,785
Common Trust Funds		1,113,654,943
Investment/Fund Management		857,799,324
Other Contingent Accounts		58,275,997
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	23,585,617,239

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	1,805,730,031
b) Banks		188,839,749
c) Trust Department		2,986,567,281
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		310%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		573%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		3,513,194,076
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		12.40%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		7,419,929,943
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		210,715,312
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		1,882,524,435
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		13.14%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		714,721,892
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		2.52%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		-
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		-

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Teodoro M. Panganiban of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) TEODORO M. PANGANIBAN
Executive Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of October 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 11937965 issued at Makati City on February 28, 2002 and Community Tax No. 15873393 issued at Quezon City on January 29, 2002, respectively.

MIGUEL G. PADERNAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
PTR NO. 6749998
JAN. 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 23
Page No. 6
Book No. XXXIX
Series of 2002.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 20, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Items	P	671,589,459
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,977,467,508
Due from Other Banks		683,228,560
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,269,111,954
Trading Account Securities (Net)		543,704,226
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		26,120,101,376
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		12,652,802,269
Equity Investments (Net)		851,554,086
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,496,851,810
Other Assets (Net)		9,695,294,171
Property Owned/Acquired		5,643,982,117
Others		4,051,312,054
TOTAL ASSETS	P	68,961,705,419
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	10,343,689,998
Savings Deposits		18,294,178,815
Time Deposits		11,751,635,115
Special/Other Deposits		6,898,559
Due to Bangko Sentral		14,100,335
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,078,701,380
Bills Payable:		8,915,165,519
BSP – Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		7,676,169,809
Others		1,219,950,042
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		819,046,899
Other Liabilities		4,579,274,326
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	55,802,690,946
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		1,666,363
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,016,066,130
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,157,348,110
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	68,961,705,419
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	80,032,547
Bills for Collection		49,071,224
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		14,827,365,809
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,931,946,610
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,638,925,052
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,793,599,932
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		217,121,187
Loans & Discounts		10,341,497
Other Assets		3,617,862,436
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Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,667,470,785
Common Trust Funds		1,113,654,943
Investment/Fund Management		857,799,324
Other Contingent Accounts		58,275,997
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	23,585,617,239

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	1,805,730,031
b) Banks		188,839,749
c) Trust Department		2,986,567,281
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:		
a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation		
b) UBP Capital Corporation		
c) UBP Securities, Inc.		

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

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JAN. 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 24
Page No. 6
Book No. XXXIX
Series of 2002.

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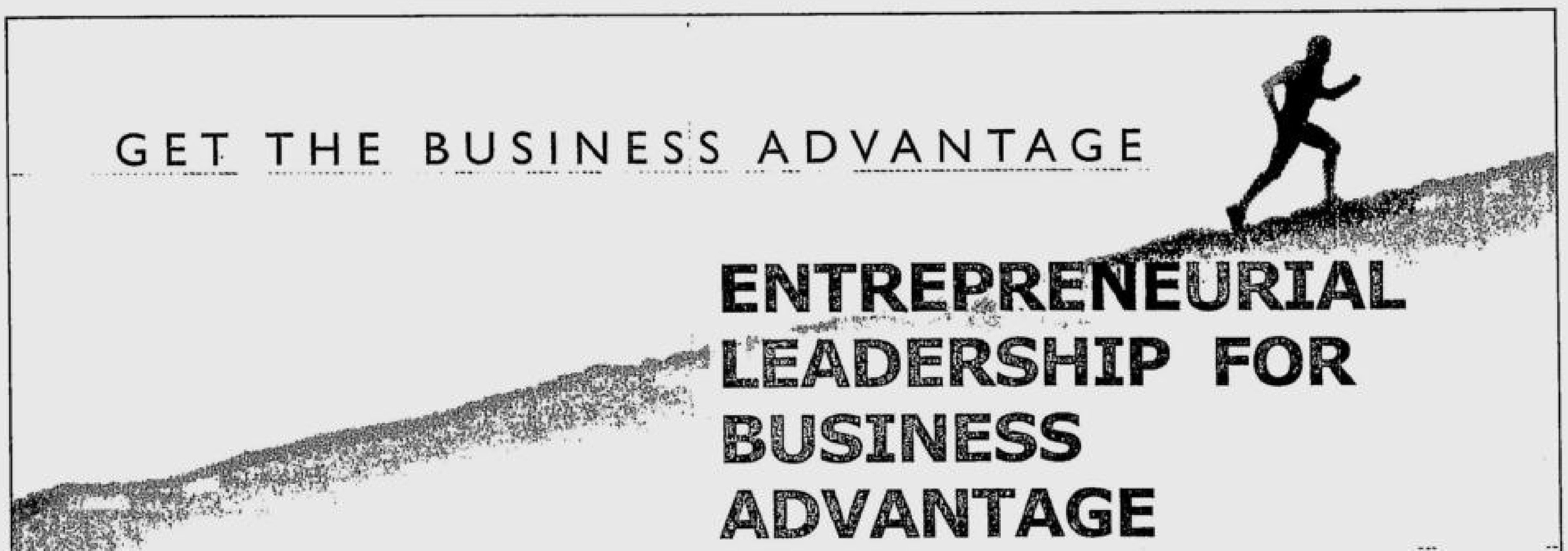

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mayalde@dataserve.aim.edu.ph

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

RP urged to tap Europe's IT mart

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) is urging the government to take off its blinders and broaden its promotion of Philippine information technology to the growing European market.

ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said the Philippine government had been focusing its IT services push in the US in the past years and had ignored the European market which outsourced $100 billion worth of IT services last year. He said just one percent of this market would result into a substantial income for the country.

Schumacher expressed confidence that the Philippines could give India a run for its money in IT services. "The problem is the Philippines is largely unknown among Europeans as a supplier of IT services."

He said India has been successful in cornering the bulk of the outsourcing contracts in Europe because of its quality positioning, government support, communication infrastructure, skilled resource supply, industry body marketing, and adequate space in its software technology park.

To penetrate the European market, Schumacher said the government should focus on developing the quality of its IT providers and labor through quality management and education; step up its promotion by putting onshore presence in

RP URGED/ B4

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Gov't, business move to enhance competitiveness of agri products

IN line with efforts to enhance the competitiveness of locally grown agricultural products, particularly corn, the Office of the Million Jobs Program headed by Presidential Adviser for Job Creation Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. recently brought together industry stakeholders for a series of caucuses to define the problems affecting the corn sector.

The multi-sector meet aimed to address the various problems—from production to processing, logistics to marketing and distribution—that hinder the growth and affect the competitiveness of the corn sector, particularly in Mindanao. It also sought to identify the interventions needed by the sector.

The meetings were in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's challenge to the private sector to help make locally produced corn more competitive in the global arena. Producers, processors, traders and cargo handlers in General Santos and Cagayan de Oro, shipping companies and government financial institutions participated in the meetings. A workshop on corn productivity was also held to consolidate the ideas and suggestions of the stakeholders in the corn supply chain.

The shipping industry, which for a long time bore the brunt of accusation that the high cost of prime commodities was a result of high shipping cost, actively took part in the corn workshop—highlighting the sector's commitment to help find ways to reduce the cost of transporting locally produced agriculture products.

The corn productivity workshop, which involved players in the supply chain, is an offshoot of the wholistic approach that the Philippine Interisland Shipping Association (PISA) is advocating through its president, Doris Magsaysay Ho, to address the problem of competitiveness of Philippine products.

AIG introduces new credit card

By Elena R. Torrijos

AIG Credit Card Co. Phils. Inc. expects to increase the number of its active issued cards to about 400,000 from almost 360,000 with the introduction of a new credit card designed to meet the needs of women.

ACCCPI portfolio manger and assistant vice president Sandro Villaraza estimated that the new product, called the AIG Dolce Vita Credit Card in cooperation with MasterCard, would initially bring in P600 million to P700 million in yearly billings.

ACCCPI is currently the No. 4 credit card company in the country in terms of number of active cards and billings.

It was targeting to be the third top credit card issuer by next year partly through the introduction of more products.

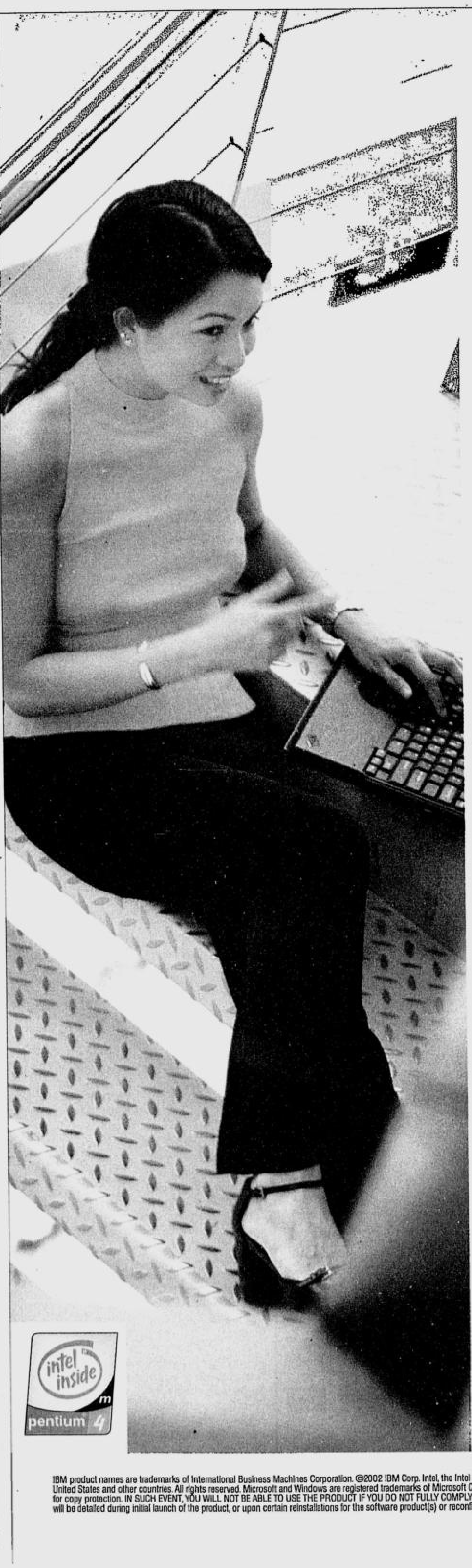
In a statement, ACCCPI said the Dolce Vita Card offered unique features exclusively for women on top of reliable and worry-free service, wide acceptance, flexibility and financial stability.

Among the added services featured in the Dolce Vita card are specialized and free health care benefits, self-enhancement programs, unlimited shopping, dining recreation options and social consciousness programs.

"AIG believes that all women deserve to be recognized and rewarded for all their achievements to date. From being the devoted wife, the selfless mother to the driven career individual, women are always behind the scenes. The Dolce Vita Card is created specifically for these women as a testimony of their honor," ACCCPI vice president for marketing Myla Gonzalez said.

ACCPI said the new card provided a high premium on women's health and offered an expanded range of health care services such as free maternity reimbursement, pediatric consultations, unlimited women-specific consultations, dermatological consultations, unlimited administration of vaccines for children, ultrasound laboratory examinations and dental benefits. Medical benefits are free.

Regular use of the Dolce Vita card automatically entitles the cardholder to free personal care services, exclusive discounts in dining, shopping, personal care, home recreation and shopping establishments.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-679 Series of 2002

Yields on long-term gov't bonds fall to all-time lows

By Clarissa S. Batino

YIELDS on 10- and 20-year bonds fell to all-time lows in yesterday's auction of long-term government securities where the Bureau of Treasury raised P3 billion for the state coffers.

The auction committee sold P2 billion worth of 10-year bonds at a coupon rate of 12.125 percent and P1 billion worth of 20-year debt papers with a yield of 12.75 percent.

The auction proceeds helped prop up the government coffers whose unrestricted cash had dwindled to only P30 billion from P40 billion a month ago.

"This is an all-time low. Never has this happened in the auction for the two tenors," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza.

Prior to yesterday's auction, the 10-year bonds were selling at 12.75 percent and the 20-year instruments were fetching 15 percent. The substantial decline in long-term rates may prompt the Treasury to issue more of 10- and 20-year bonds.

Edeza said offers for the 10-year papers reached P4.9 billion and P7.505 billion for the 20-year instruments but the government had accepted only P3 billion worth of both tenors. No over-the-counter facility was opened for the debt papers yesterday.

The treasurer explained that the 10- and 20-year bonds were auctioned to provide an investment option for the insurance industry that usually needs long-term debt papers where they can invest their clients' money placed on life, non-life, and pre-need insurance products.

"We'd like the market to absorb the issue first and if there would be continued demand, we might offer these long-term instruments again," said Edeza.

Edeza pointed out that the government's cash position was still healthy even if it had dropped to P30 billion. The decline, he said, was due to payment of the government's maturing obligations.

Edeza also said the government would push through with the planned peso loan of up to P20 billion within the month. He said the government had mandated HSBC to design a structure for the loan which should mature in three- and five-years but not necessarily to underwrite the transaction.

The preferred structure, said Edeza, was to borrow funds from no more than 19 lenders so that participating banks would not be required to pay the 20-percent withholding tax. Their earnings, however, will be slapped a 35-percent corporate income tax.

The P20-billion loan will be used to replace the supposed proceeds from Treasury bill auctions in December which the government was inclined to cancel.

BSP prohibits deposit-credit card swap

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has ordered banks and their credit card subsidiaries to refrain from offering "pseudo-deposit" instruments to potential customers in the race to build up their customer base.

In an interview, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes told the Inquirer the central bank has started investigating reports that the credit card subsidiaries of banks may be venturing into the restricted area of deposit-taking.

The BSP has received queries from the public about some credit card companies enticing potential customers to put money in banks in exchange for a credit card. Customers are then offered a credit limit that will depend on how much they have deposited in the bank.

"We are looking into this practice to see whether the credit cards are not violating any policy because only banks are allowed to take deposits," Reyes stressed.

He said credit card subsidiaries of banks should not use deposit products to entice new clients.

Reyes said he would check whether banks engaged in the credit card business could use their deposit instruments to lure new clients.

"We have to check what are the instruments being used and the mechanics, like if there is a regular interest being paid," he said.

PSE finalizing Fort Boni land donation deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is finalizing the terms of the revised agreement with property developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. for the relocation of the exchange's unified trading floor to the Global City.

In a press briefing Monday night, PSE president Ernest Leung said the management would submit to the PSE board the details of the agreement in its meeting next week.

"We have finalized the terms of the agreement. It is just a matter of signing it and getting it approved by the respective boards of the PSE and FBDC," Leung said.

The approval of the fineprints will complete the term sheet ratified by the PSE's 184 member-brokers during the annual stockholders meeting in March this year.

Five PSE directors led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto have urged the bourse's management to fast-track the closing of the Fort Boni land donation. They warned that the donation might be be overtaken by events now that First Pacific Co. Ltd. was selling its assets in the Philippines, including its stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Leung said FBDC would spend P250 million to build the new PSE building. It is scheduled to start construction of the building on the fourth year after the signing of the deal.

"There will be exit points, options like bringing in a third party (to complete the development)," Leung said.

The agreement provides that the conditional deed of donation will cover Lot 9-5 whose title will be transferred to a new holding company that will own the property. The shares of the new company will be held in escrow and will be transferred to the PSE within seven years.

The delay in the finalization of the term sheet, according to Leung, was due largely to efforts of the PSE to shorten the timeframe for the transfer of the property.

The PSE presently maintains two trading floors—one in Makati and the other in Ortigas. The original plan was to unify the exchange into a single structure by 2004. The slump in the property sector forced the donor, FBDC, to seek an extension.

During the last PSE stockholders meetings, FBDC was freed from its commitment to complete the new PSE building by 2004. In exchange, FBDC agreed to donate the property earmarked for the unified trading floor within seven years. The future trading floor will have a total floor area of 12,000 square meters.

If FBDC would fail to deliver the property by the end of the ninth year, it will be required to double the floor area of the property for donation.

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Registration Fee: P2,500 per day, inclusive of meals and conference kit

E-Government Track
November 20, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- State of E-Commerce Compliance by Philippine Government Agencies - Department of Trade and Industry
- E-Government Budget Allotment - Department of Budget and Management
- E-Banking and E-Payments - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- E-Commerce Project Standards - National Computer Center
- RP-Web Update - Department of Transportation and Communications
- Use of VAS in E-Government - National Telecommunications Commission
- Audit Initiatives and Issues - Commission on Audit

Wireless Track
November 20, 2002, 1:30-5:00pm
- The State of Wireless Technology: Multimedia Messaging System (MMS) - The Next Big Thing in Wireless
- Surviving the Advertising Slump Through Wireless Technologies
- Location-Based Services & Telematics
- Mobile Commerce: How Wireless Technology Makes Business

E-Commerce Track
November 21, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- Electronic Cash Management: Creating Value for Your Business in the Digital Age
- Best Practices in Doing E-Commerce by Successful DotComs in the Philippines: The e-2-door.com and MyAyala.com Case Studies
- Interactive Online Banking

Internet & Web Technology
November 21, 2002, 1:30-4:30pm
- Best Practices in E-Commerce Project Management
- Implementing Logistics: A Case Study
- Web Technology and Services - Microsoft.NET

Outsourcing Track
November 22, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- The Philippine Software Development Outsourcing Industry: A Self Assessment
- 2003 Global Forecast for IT Services Outsourcing Market
- Global Market Opportunities in Outsourced Software Development Business

Policies Track
November 22, 2002, 1:30-4:00pm
- Convergence Bill
- Optical Media Bill
- Terrorism Bill
- Cyber Crime Bill

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RP ...

From page B3

target markets; and leverage multinational corporations with shared services in the Philippines as a lure to get European investors. Schumacher said the Philippines has to improve its educational system in order to maintain its biggest advantage among IT providers—a labor force fluent in English.

Schumacher said the government should promote less of the call center business in the country (which he described as gypsy industries) and, instead, shoot for more value-added services.

The ECCP cited the business process outsourcing as a potential gold mine for the Philippines considering that India has yet to venture into this area.

Aside from IT, Schumacher expressed confidence that the Philippines would eventually get more access to Europe for its canned tuna exports but not the extent of duty-free entry similar to the perks granted to tuna products from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

At best, Schumacher said the Philippines could get lower tariffs for its canned tuna exports from the prevailing 24 percent rate. He also noted that the Philippines was unlikely to get duty-free access through the European Union's generalized system of preference because it would contravene the perks granted to ACP.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, October 15, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18	18	82,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42	41	41.5	205,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	286,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	32	32.5	28,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	30,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1070	1075	1070	1070	420
Sun Life Financial Serv.	855	860	855	860	3,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.25	20	19	19	69,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	8,170,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	425	425	420	420	10,520
Ipeople Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.024	0.024	8,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	2,100,000
Piltel	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	260	260	244	244	80,110
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	12,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16	22,700
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25	24.75	24.75	261,600
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	1,277,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.26	2.18	2.18	1,861,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3	3	414,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	26,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	103,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	4,713,200
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	53	53.5	187,800
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58.5	57.5	58.5	490,600
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,686,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.95	4.95	4.8	4.85	1,090,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.3	66,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	470,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	314,100
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	34,365,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.56	3,860,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	10,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,540,000
Music Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	250,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.7	170,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	310,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	220,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.23	0.28	0.23	0.28	30,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19	19	18.5	18.5	120,700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.3	4.95	5	3,915,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	610,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.99	4,110,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	40,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	49,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	395,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	2,919,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	50,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	40,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	75,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0012	0.0012	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	10,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	639,350	22,365,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	99,571,550	309,475,885.00
PRO	12,928,000	40,619,300.00
Mining	166,560,000	866,200.00
OIL	90,000,000	159,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	369,698,900	373,486,135.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	412.80	DOWN 6.03
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,446.06	DOWN 18.30
PRO	465.46	DOWN 21.71
Mining	1,086.61	DOWN 7.89
OIL	1.26	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	595.08	DOWN 10.47
Composite	1,047.69	DOWN 19.82

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 1,530

DISCLOSURES

RFM Corp. said its acquisition of Swift Foods Inc. did not include assets such as land, plant, equipment and trademarks. Only SFI's working capital assets such as trade receivables and inventories worth about P271 million were transferred. While RFM will engage in the marketing, selling and distribution of chilled and canned meat products, SFI will engage only in poultry business.

***

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Nov. 8 to Nov. 15 to finalize the annual report for distribution to shareholders. Record date is Oct. 21.

***

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. reported unrestricted retained earnings of P1.48 billion in connection with its buy-back last Oct. 14.

***

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 18,000 of its own shares at P32 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 15, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012453	1.000000	52.985000
Japan	Yen	0.008164	0.008064	0.427300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.582059	1.562600	82.794400
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129807	0.128210	6.793200
Switzerland	Franc	0.683490	0.675083	35.769300
Canada	Dollar	0.638208	0.630358	33.399500
Singapore	Dollar	0.564922	0.557973	29.564200
Australia	Dollar	0.555439	0.548607	29.067900
Bahrain	Dinar	2.686265	2.653224	140.581100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269988	0.266667	14.129400
Brunei	Dollar	0.563225	0.556297	29.475400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.005900
Thailand	Baht	0.023084	0.022800	1.208100
UAE	Dirham	0.275685	0.272294	14.427500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987700	52.333300
Argentina	Peso	0.273636	0.270270	14.320300
Brazil	Real	0.257884	0.254712	13.495900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134617	0.132961	7.044900
India	Rupee	0.020979	0.020721	1.097900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266464	0.263186	13.944900
Mexico	New Peso	0.100193	0.098961	5.243400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486686	0.480700	25.469900
Norway	Kroner	0.137373	0.135683	7.189200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017175	0.016964	0.898800
South Africa	Rand	0.097257	0.096061	5.089800
Korea	Won	0.000810	0.000800	0.042400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109660	0.108311	5.738900
Syria	Pound	0.022906	0.022624	1.198700
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028878	0.028523	1.511300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0 000684	0 000676	0 035800

To text or not to text: A question of trust

By Abigail L. Ho

Conclusion

THE SHEER number of mobile phone users in the country—around 12 million as of the latest count—has made dealing with all their complaints a logistics nightmare.

"It's really very difficult for us to handle large volumes of complaints simultaneously as we have both limited staff and limited power. We also have complaints coming on different aspects of telecommunications, like broadcasting and fixed line services so it's really hard for us to focus on just one aspect," NTC common carriers authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios said.

In the case of Smart's "Pure Txt 100" card, however, consumer advocacy group TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz slammed both the NTC and DTI for supposedly sleeping on their jobs.

"We expect these agencies to side with consumers, but they're not doing anything," he said.

Cabarios said no matter how difficult—and sometimes even nearly impossible—the NTC has been doing its best to protect consumers by constantly conducting public hearings to give them a venue to air their side on every issue.

"But they have to understand that we can only do so much. We still have to strike a balance between making the industry attractive to investors and protecting the rights of the consumers," he said.

Not remiss

Mobile phone companies are also saying that they have never been remiss in attending to consumer concerns that are brought to their attention.

Smart Communications Inc. public affairs head Ramon Isberto said Smart has been making large investments over the years to enhance the customer service aspect of its business.

The company has also spent a huge amount of money for network upgrades so that consumer complaints about anything and everything that had to do with their mobile phones would be kept at a minimum, he said.

"In fact, the largest single department in Smart is the customer service department where we made substantial investments in technology. We have also been improving our system to the point that we've already developed world-leading applications. We're being responsible. We're putting money where our mouth is. We understand that Filipinos take their cell phone problems personally, but they also need to understand that we're really trying our best and investing a lot of money to serve them better," he said.

Globe Telecommunications Inc. senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said Globe has been processing and addressing in the best and fastest way possible all valid subscriber complaints.

Both carriers have numerous business centers in key areas all over the country that consumers can run to with their complaints. They also have 24-hour hotlines that customers can call with their queries and concerns.

But Globe and Smart both admit that there are just some cases that are outside their jurisdiction or at least needed some NTC intervention before they can take action.

"Take the case of blocking the SIM (subscriber identification module) cards of stolen phones and the blocking of actual handsets. We can't just do that when an individual asks us to. They have to go through a process at the NTC that will assure us that we won't be liable to anything when we block a certain phone or SIM card. This is especially true for prepaid subscribers because we have no way of proving their ownership of the unit or the SIM card," Salalima said.

Despite the carriers' reasons and apparent efforts to resolve consumer problems, both Cruz and Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTi) president Jonathan Domingo said they still had some misgivings.

Domingo said an external authority should always make sure that cellular service providers were indeed doing what they were saying with regard to addressing consumer concerns.

"The telecommunications industry is structured in such a way that large, wealthy, monopolistic service providers are the only ones serving the nation. This makes it hard for consumers to voice out their concerns," he said.

For this reason, consumers often feel the need to just take things into their own hands, he said.

Power to the people

Cruz said "Edsa Dos"—the military-backed civilian revolt that brought down the Estrada administration—proved that individuals banding together for a common cause could make a big difference in society.

If no government agency could really safeguard their rights, Cruz said it was but natural that consumers themselves fight for their own rights.

"We're just now realizing the need for a strong consumer movement. In our country's history, consumerism has never been strong. But with the current situation, we are being forced to make sure that our rights are respected, even without government's help," he said.

Domingo said Congress or Malacañang could be a possible recourse for consumers, but the politics and bureaucracy would just drag cases down instead of speed up their resolution.

Also, problems that would not be solved in one administration would not be passed on to the next administration without a new appeal from consumers to the new set of government officials.

"It sometimes becomes a question of who to trust and who not to trust. The NTC, for some reason, has its hands tied. It can't really stand up for the consumers. There really should be a probe on what really happens inside that department," Domingo said.

Law and disorder

The government deregulated the telecommunications industry in 1995 to spur growth in that sector and other sectors affected by it.

This action dismantled the longtime monopoly of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and led to increased telephone penetration. It could also be deduced that the texting revolution would not have taken place without deregulation.

But Republic Act 7925, or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, may have some loopholes that deserve some looking into. Even the NTC has admitted to this fact.

Smart in m-commerce deal

SMART Money Holdings Corp., mobile commerce arm of cellular giant Smart Communications Inc., is now in "serious negotiations" with several Asian telecommunications firms to export its m-commerce platform.

With the success of the platform's integration into Malaysian cellular service provider TM Cellular Sdn. Bhd.'s system, SMHC chief executive Ian Wilson said several European carriers had shown interest in the platform as well.

TM Cellular is SMHC's first foreign licensee for its m-commerce platform that includes its Smart Money application and a suite of mobile banking applications.

The Malaysian cellular firm commercially launched its new m-commerce service on Oct. 8, less than two months after signing a licensing agreement with SMHC.

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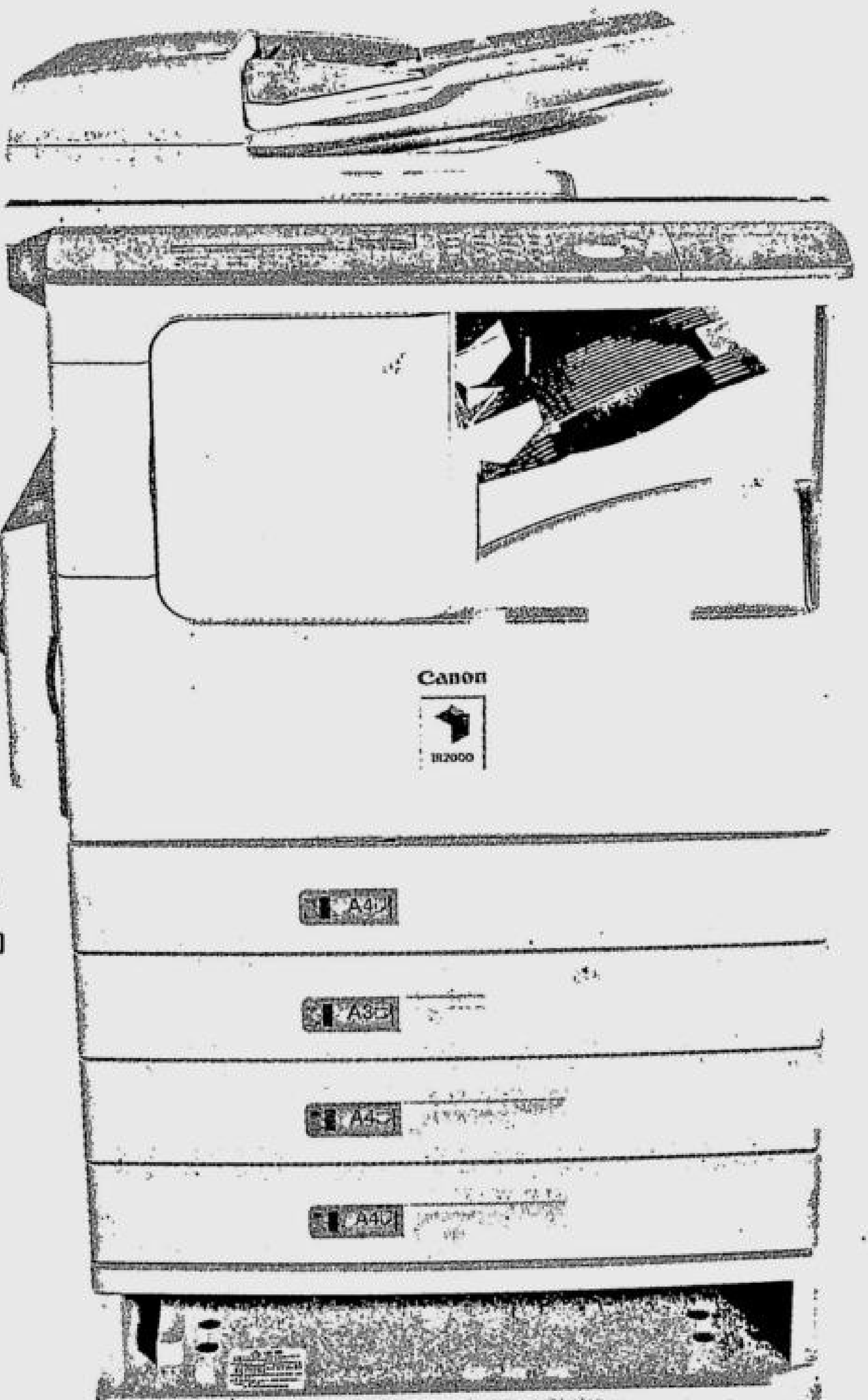

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3632 Series of 2002

Body seeks broader power against money laundering

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council is urging Congress to allow regulators to look into bank accounts earlier than planned.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chair and AMLC member Lilia Bautista said that Congress has advised them to wait for the amendments to the New Central Bank Act but the council wanted this authority to be included in proposed amendments to the AMLA.

Specifically, Bau-tista said, the AMLC would want the power to look into bank accounts when there is a case for a freeze order.

The AMLA, enacted last year, allows the AMLC to inquire into or examine any particular deposit or investment with any banking institution or non-bank financial institution upon order of any competent court when it has been established that there is probable cause that the deposits or investments involved are related to a money laundering offense.

Passage of the AMLA was rushed last year for the Philippines to avoid sanctions as suggested by the Financial Action Task Force, an international money laundering watchdog backed by the world's richest and most powerful countries.

Despite the passage, the FATF has expressed dissatisfaction with the law and has advised the Philippine government that the country would not be removed from a list of non-cooperative countries and territories in the fight against money laundering until certain conditions were met.

Specifically, the FATF has called on the easing of the bank secrecy provisions to allow regulators to examine bank accounts and the lowering of the threshold for the reporting of covered transactions.

In line with this, the AMLC has recommended that amendments to the AMLA already grant greater power to regulators to look into bank accounts and to lower the reporting threshold to P500,000 from P4 million.

Bautista said that in a recent hearing with AMLC officials, some congressmen also indicated they wanted to allow reporting of suspicious transactions without any benchmark or threshold.

However, Bautista said banks wanted a benchmark because they might be charged for failing to report certain transactions.

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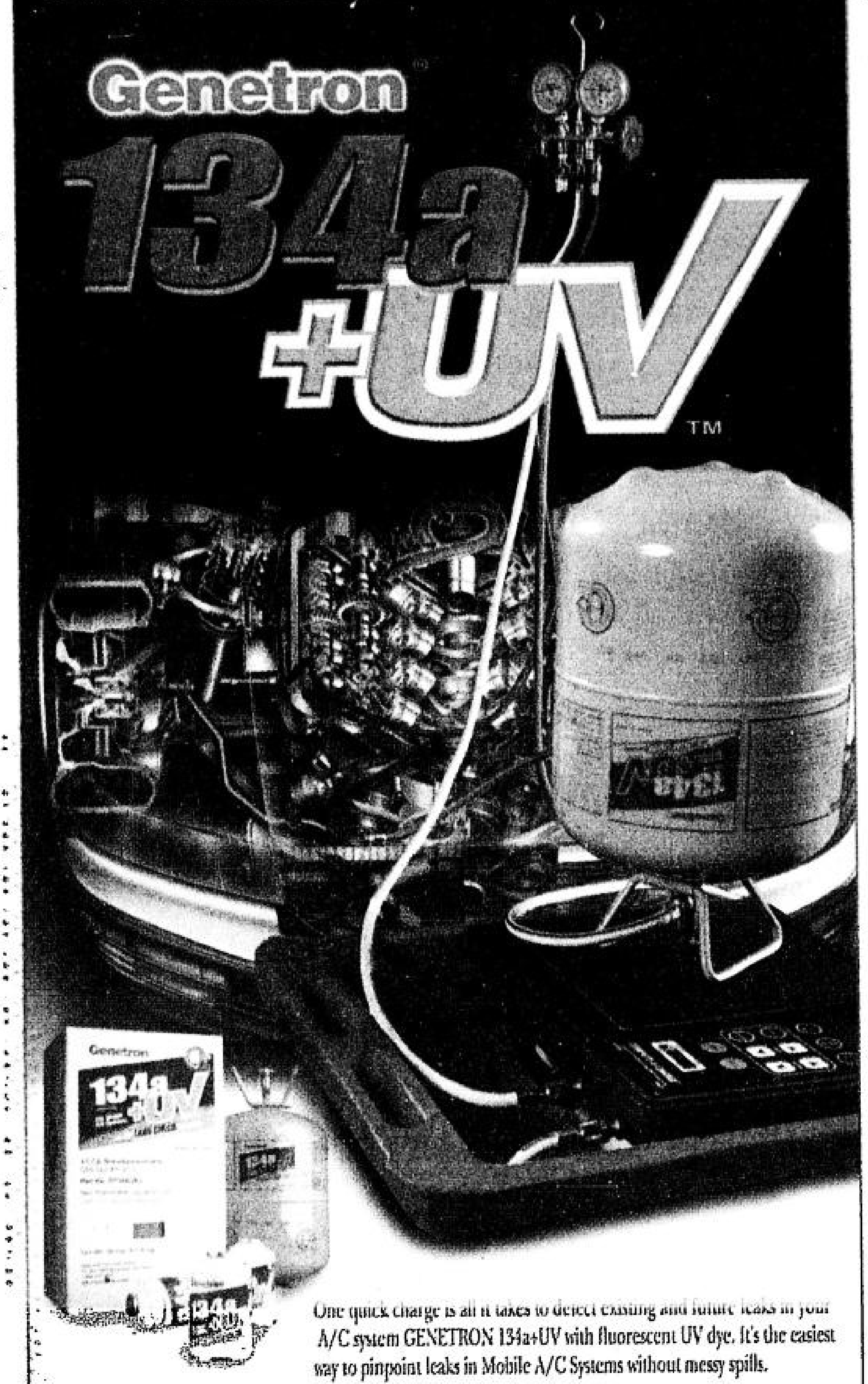

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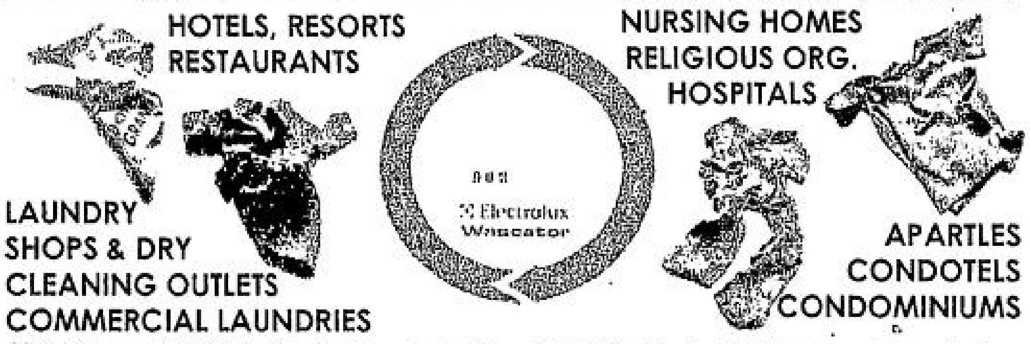

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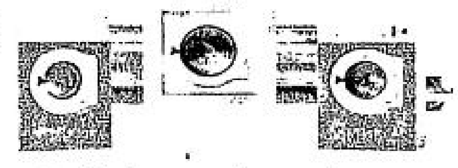

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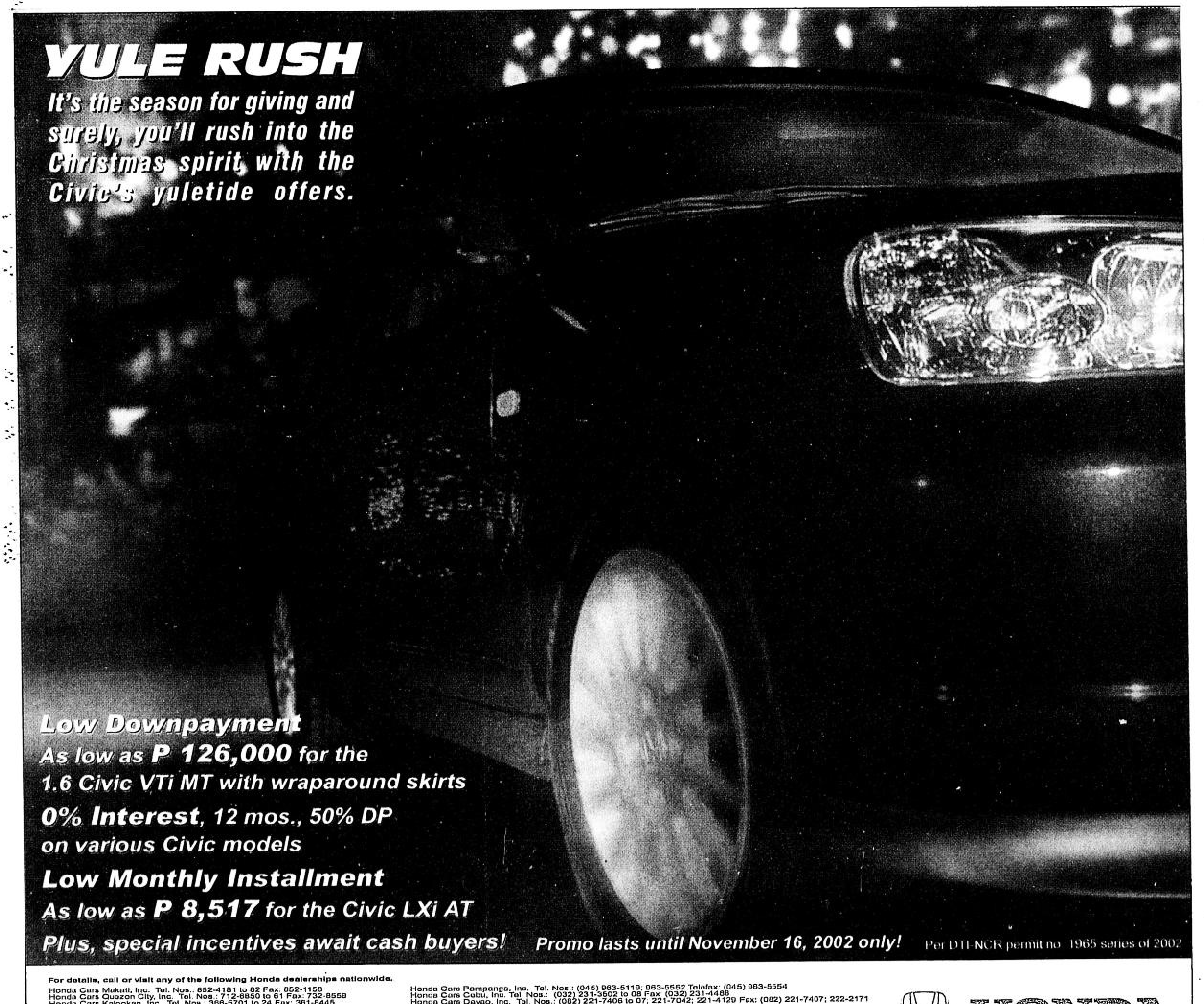

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HONDA

Too early to assess Bali impact on Asia, says IMF

SINGAPORE—It is still too premature to determine the extent to which regional economies will be affected from the fallout of the deadly bomb blasts that hit the Indonesian resort of Bali, an IMF official said Tuesday.

"Trying to assess the impact at this juncture is very speculative at best," said Kenneth Rogoff, International Monetary Fund economic counsellor and research director.

"It is clearly a blow, but how long lasting and broad-based the effects will be is impossible to say at this juncture," he said in a forum here.

Rogoff said it was "plausible that the economic effects on growth next year for the region will be limited." But this scenario will be dependent on "how the security situation evolves, how policy responds and above all the impact on business and consumer confidence, both domestically and in the rest of the world," Rogoff said.

More than 180 people were killed and at least 300 injured when a car bomb and ensuing fire ripped through two nightclubs packed with tourists on Saturday night.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack but almost immediately suspicion fell upon Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida Islamic extremist group.

The world economy will remain on the growth path although acts of terrorism will no doubt have eroded some of the benefits achieved from globalization, Rogoff said.

"The long-term outlook of the global economy is still dominated by very positive trends in technology and productivity," he said.

"But the impact of terror eats into this at least a little, if nothing else slowing the gains from increased globalization."

Rogoff said the IMF was maintaining its forecast in its World Economic Outlook that the global economy would grow 2.8 percent this year and 3.7 percent next year.

"We do see upside risks to this forecast, particularly from continuing positive news about long-term productivity trends, not to mention short-term boosts from monetary stimulus in the pipeline and inventory rebound," said Rogoff. *AFP*

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Iraq war to hurt global economy, says Stiglitz

SEOUL—A recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize for Economics, Joseph Stiglitz, warned on Tuesday that a US war against Iraq would have a "very negative" impact on the global economy.

He also accused President George W. Bush of "mismanagement" of the US economy and forcing a global downturn on the rest of the world.

Speaking at the World Knowlege Forum here, Stiglitz said many people hoping for an economic boom from a war on Iraq would be disappointed.

They confuse what happened in World War II with what could happen today, he said. World War II helped the world out of global deflation and had a positive impact on the world economy, he said.

"This current war, if it occurs, is likely to have a high probability of having a very negative impact," he told journalists.

He said the differences between World War II and a possible war against Iraq was that World War II was a war of total mobilization with huge expenditures.

But a war on Iraq was likely to involve fewer people and less expenditure in terms of the global economic growth. *AFP*

Japan's central bank warns of export slump

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan left a key assessment of the economy in October unchanged on Tuesday for the third straight month but warned of a slowdown in export-led growth due to global economic fears.

"Japan's economy has stabilized as a whole, but clear signs of recovery have not yet been observed partly due to large uncertainty regarding the global economy," the central bank said.

"Exports continue to increase, albeit at a slower pace," it said.

Exports have lifted the world's second largest economy from recession, sparking fresh activity at factories and helping to boost gross domestic product by 0.6 percent in the three months to June from the previous quarter.

But the BoJ warned stirring industrial production would decelerate in line with slumping orders from overseas.

"The pace of improvement in business sentiment has become gradual and the improvement for the immediate future is also expected to be small partly due to large uncertainty regarding the global economy," the October report said.

Exports would continue to rise in the coming months, but a slump in the pace of growth was expected to continue until the end of the year, the BoJ predicted. *AFP*

Asia telecoms services industry valued at $150B

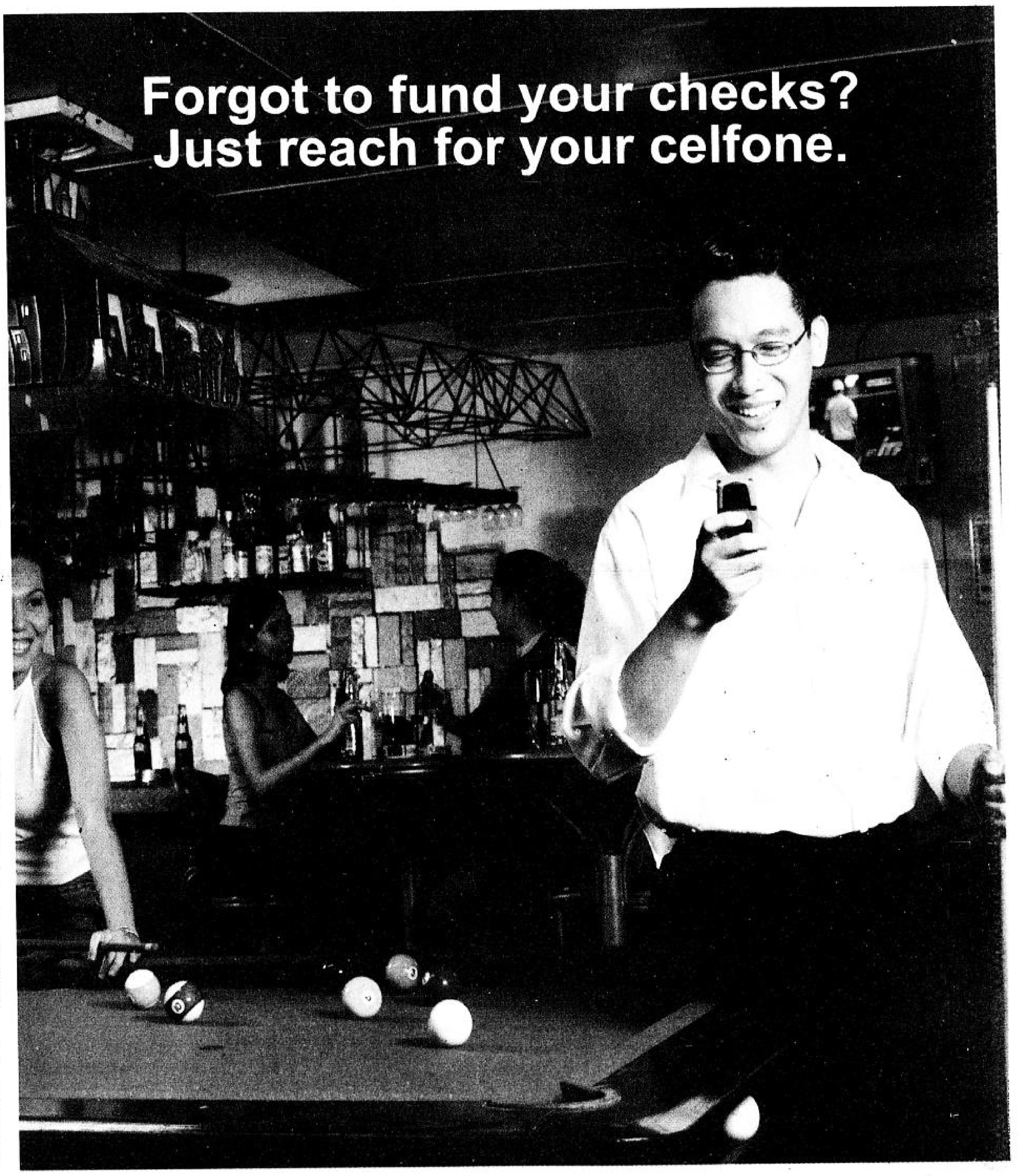
SINGAPORE—Asia's telecoms services sector is expected to churn out revenues worth nearly $150 billion by the end of the year with the figure to exceed $180 billion in 2003, an industry report said Tuesday.

Research house IDC said weak regional economies and downward pressure on pricing due to ample bandwidth capacity was not going to affect the projected jump in revenues from the telecommunications services sector.

The wireless data segment is especially promising as mobile usage in the region continues to increase, IDC said.

By 2006, the region is projected to have more than 550 million mobile subscribers, up from the 250 million subscribers seen in 2001, IDC said.

In terms of mobile penetration rate, Taiwan led the region with an 85-percent rate followed by Singapore and Hong Kong. *AFP*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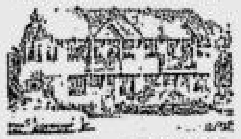

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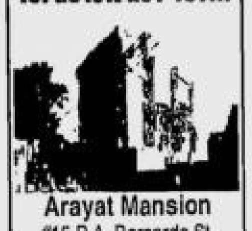

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Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Registration of prospective bidders and issuance of bid documents shall start on **October 16, 2002** until **November 6, 2002** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check payable to the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 6, 2002 at 2:00 PM** (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the existing AFP Network Management Unit (NMU) upon purchase of bid documents on a designated schedule as determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **November 21, 2002** at **9:00 AM** (local time) and the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Oct. 16, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
East Avenue, Quezon City

Application for Approval
of Sale and Transfer

CASE NO. 2002-5464

TOWER FREIGHT SERVICES INC. - Vendor
ASSOCIATED FREIGHT CONSOLIDATORS INC. - Vendee
applicant/s.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicants request approval of the sale made by **TOWER FREIGHT SERVICES INC.** in favor of **ASSOCIATED FREIGHT CONSOLIDATORS INC.** of the Certificate of Public Convenience issued in **CASE NO. 95-24582** authorizing the operation of a TH freight-truck service within **MAKATI CITY** and from said place to any point in the Island of Luzon accessible to motor vehicle traffic and vice versa, with the use of **SIX (6)** unit/s, and including in the said sale **SIX (6)** freight-trucks, which Certificate is valid up to **JANUARY 9, 2006**. In the application filed on **SEPTEMBER 26, 2002** applicants request authority to increase its presents authorized units by **FOUR (4)** more units within the same territory.

NOTICE is hereby given that this application will be heard by this Board on **OCTOBER 21, 2002** at 1:00 p.m. at its Office at the above address.

At least five (5) days prior to the above date, applicant/s shall publish this Notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Luzon, and to notify the applicant-vendor to appear on the said date of hearing, to confirm the sale and transfer applied for.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so, desire appear on said date and time.

This application will be acted upon by this Board on the basis of its records and documentary evidence submitted by the parties, unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS the Honorable DANTE M. LANTIN, Chairman this 10th day of OCTOBER 2002.

(Sgd.) GONZALO S. GO, JR.
Chief, Legal Division

(PDI – Oct. 16, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JMH Pawnshop will hold an auction sale on all expired pledges on Oct. 18, 2002 at 9:00 am from the FF. offices #7 A. Bonifacio St. Libis and Tenlado st. Tanay Rizal
- Greg Mendoza- Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **RUDOLF VONTOBEL** was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc#44, Page#10, Book#42, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Berlin R. dela Cruz of Las Pinas City. (PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NARCISO N. MIRABUENO SR. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Sept. 16, 2002 per Doc. 229, Page 47, Book CCLXXII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Erlinda B. Espejo of Quezon City PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Corazon Aro Talento was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs as per Doc. No. 1672, Page No. 56, Book No. 92, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Leonardo I. Irapta of Makati City. (PDI-10-9,16,23,2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) invites prospective bidders to Bid for the following:

1. 120,000 doses FMD MONOVALENT VACCINE IN OIL ADJUVANT W/ 01 MANISA OR 01 PHILIPPINES

Specifications:

1. Must contain the 01 Manisa type/subtype 01 Manisa or 01 Philippines;
2. That the vaccine is subjected to internationally-accepted sterility, innocuity and potency test;
3. Note: Administration 1 or 2 ml. per shot;
4. Bottle label must indicate vaccine components, rate of administration, batch or lot no., date of manufacture, expiry date and;
5. Vaccine expiry requirement at least one (1) year from the date of delivery;
6. Must indicate in the label or as a sticker the following; GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, NOT FOR SALE.

Bid documents are available for issuance to interested bidders from **Oct. 1, 2002** at the **BAI-FIAHPP, BAC Office, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Look for Lolit M. Razon or Mengie C. Magpantay.**

Opening of bids will be on **Oct. 18, 2002** and all bids must be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. at the **BAI-FIAHPP Conference Room, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and will be opened in the presence of the bidders.

Bidders are requested to submit a bidder's bond, either in cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check Bank Draft/Guarantee in an amount equivalent to but not less than 1% of the total approved budget cost for the contract or 2.5% for GSIS Surety Bond. Approved Budget cost (P 2,700,000.00).

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any defects or informality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Very truly yours,
For the Director of Animal Industry

(Sgd.) **VICTOR C. ATIENZA, DVM, FRVC**
BAC-Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 8 & 16, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
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Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov.ph) for bid invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
SECURITY SERVICES

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) is inviting bidders for a two (2) year contract of security services to be rendered at the following premises/properties/sites:

Lot No.	Area Description	Approved Budget for Two (2) Year-Contract
1	Main Office Building, MAC Building & East Triangle Property	P49,980,000.00
2	NCR Branches	P33,726,000.00
3	Luzon South & Bicol	P24,696,780.00
4	SSS Properties (Makati Building, Urdaneta, Roxas Blvd., Bagbag, BRC, etc.)	P21,504,000.00

Source of Funding: M/R Building – Security Services

The list of Eligibility Requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P20,000.00. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **15 November 2002** not later than **5:00 p.m.** For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers **922-2991** or **920-6401** local 5490/5491.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.
Senior Vice President and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 16, 2002)

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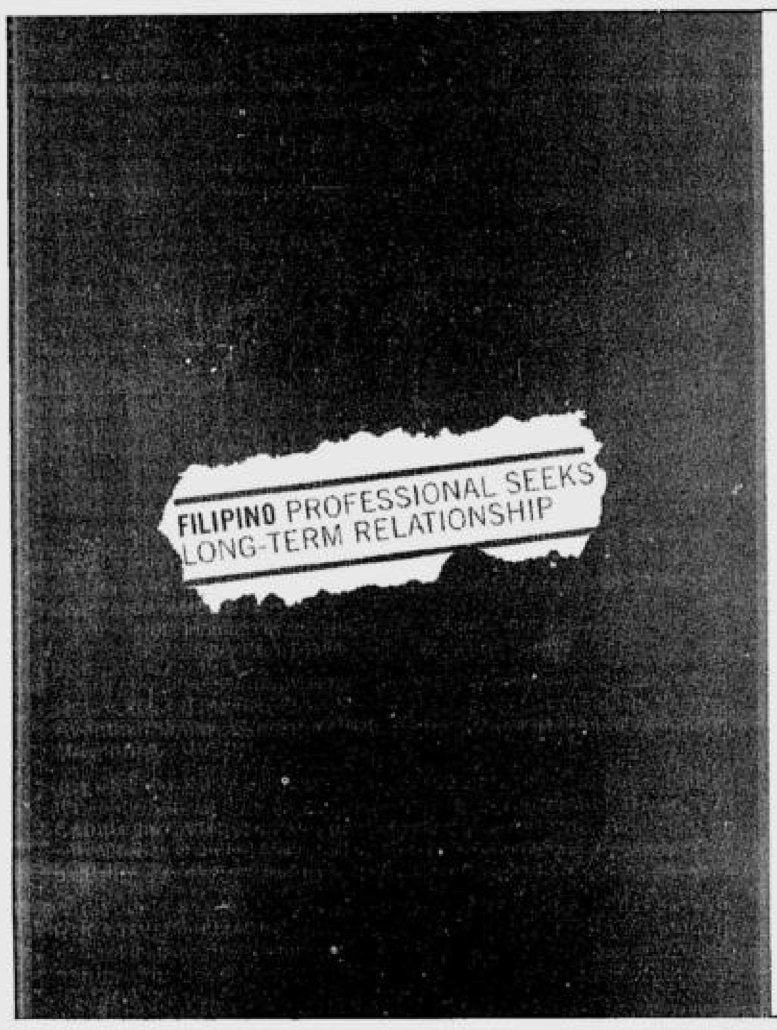

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B. Shanmuga Retman, Regional Director, Emerging Markets-Asia Pacific, Spring, and Chairman, Direct Marketing Association of Singapore

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MARIA C. GARCIA	Oct. 17	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City La Union	Rivera St. Ext., Lingsat San Fernando City
DR. ABRAHAM C. LIM	Oct. 18	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City La Union	Quezon Avenue, National H-way San Fernando City

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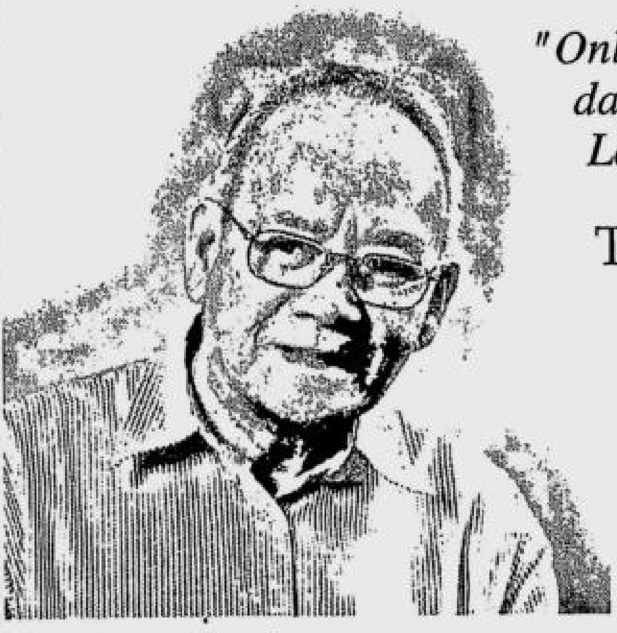


"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come..." — **Psalm 23:6**

The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of

CEBU PACIFIC

extend their deepest sympathy and sincerest
condolences to the family of

Arturo "Art" Gomez Tuazon

Vice President – Maintenance & Engineering

who peacefully joined Our Lord on
October 13, 2002 at the age of 77.

His loving wife Pacita, daughter Cynthia,
son-in-law Zach, grand daughter Tricie,
and his relatives and friends,
request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

A burial mass will be celebrated **at 12 noon, Thursday, October 17, 2002.**
Interment follows at the **Loyola Memorial Park Chapels,**
A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City.

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away
of a distinguished colleague

HONORABLE REYNERIO "RENE" E. LLANOS

Provincial Governor of Davao del Sur
July 1, 2002 — October 11, 2002

who joined his Creator on Friday, October 11, 2002
at the age of 63.

He lies in state at the family residence
at Gallarde Street, Digos City, Davao del Sur.

His body will be brought to the Davao del Sur Provincial Capitol
on Sunday, October 20, 2002.

Interment will be on October 21, 2002 at Digos City Public Cemetery
after the 9:00 am Funeral Mass at the Mary Mediatrix
Cathedral, Digos City.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER
the 5th Death Anniversary of our Mother

FELISA SALVOSA TORRES

Who joined her Creator on October 16, 1997

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered today, October 16, 2002 at the following Churches:

1.	Divine Word Mission Seminary *E. Rodriguez, Q.C.*	6:00 AM
2.	St. Jerome the Parish *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:15 AM
3.	Santuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church *San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
4.	St. John the Baptist Church *Pinaglabanan, San Juan*	6:30 AM
5.	St. James Parish Church *Ayala Alabang*	6:15 AM
6.	Sto. Niño de Paz *Greenbelt Chapel*	7:15 AM
7.	Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy *Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City*	6:00 PM
8.	Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned *Sta. Ana, Manila*	6:30 PM
9.	Sacred Heart Parish Church *Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 AM

We, the family would like to request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. May her soul rest in peace with the Lord.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

'How do I promote discipline in the company?'

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

By Tita Datu Puangco

I HAVE my own company. My employees and workers now number close to 120. My concern is the bigger we grow, the less disciplined and less committed people seem to be. Tardiness and absenteeism are frequent among the employees who have been with us for a long time. This attitude affects the new hires who are enthusiastic at the beginning and then, after a while, behave like the old timers. Is it because I try to empower and treat them well that they abuse my kindness? I worry about the breakdown of discipline in my organization.

Worried Entrepreneur

When people come late or are absent, their personal contribution to the company is reduced which translates to lost sales and less productivity. It also reduces the commitment and enthusiasm of employees who are excited to do good work. In a culture that lacks discipline, sooner or later, the standards and norms relax and deteriorate. Employees subconsciously sense this. The seeming chaos and breakdown of rule and order easily spread.

Systems orientation

To be effective as a leader, you need to create a system within which empowerment can grow with the proper guidance.

We had a consulting technology partner, a Swiss American, who visited us some years ago. He was amazed at the behavior of Filipinos. He saw how cars would cause traffic jams, how pedestrians would cross at the wrong place and time, how people would ask for directions rather than consult a map. There was an utter lack of system to guide behavior. But he also noted how warm and friendly we are.

Reflecting on his comments, I asked, could this lack of systems orientation be the reason for our country's backwardness? Does this lack of discipline (as reflected in street graffitti) indirectly encourage the commission of crimes?

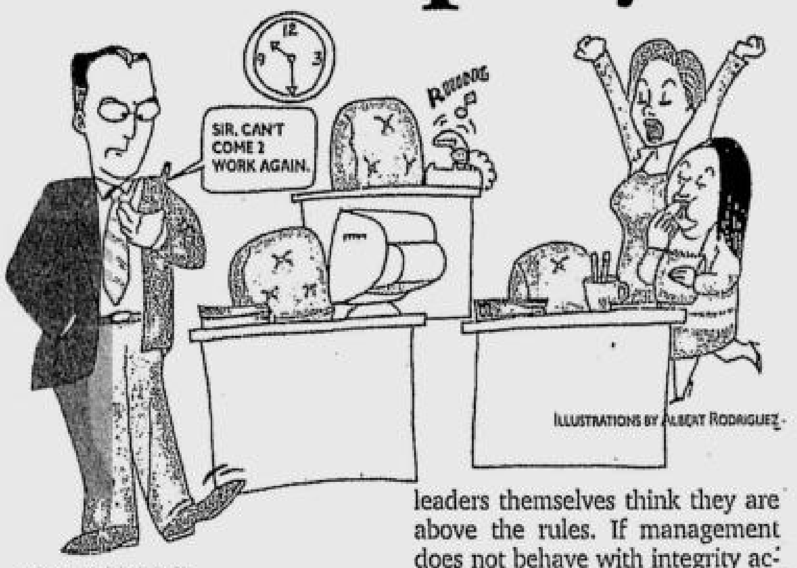
Broken windows

Recently, I came across an interesting book, "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell. He cites the "broken windows" theory of criminologists Wilson and Kelling which states that crime is the inevitable result of disorder. "If a window is broken and left unrepaired, people walking by will conclude that no one cares and no one is in charge." The theory claims that crime is contagious--it can start with a broken window and can spread to an entire community.

This can be applied to the company setting. When rules are constantly broken, when tardiness or absenteeism become the rule rather the exception, when the supervisors who enforce the rules become the weirdos while those who are lenient become the heroes, it is time to renew the culture of discipline. Author Jim Collins mentions that one factor that transformed companies from "good to great" is a culture of discipline.

Steps to discipline

In this light, what steps can you take? First, provide your supervisors skills in coaching and positive discipline, where they balance the task of enforcing rules while maintaining healthy relationships with employees. In our culture where smooth interpersonal relationships are much valued, a supervisor may feel awkward at first and may have to shed the habit of not confronting low or lack of performance of employees. But this is a learnable skill.


SIR, CAN'T COME 2 WORK AGAIN.
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RUDDDG
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Second, launch a company-wide communications program to remind people of the rules and policies as well the disciplinary action that will be taken in case of infractions. Then, set a date when all the supervisors and managers start strict enforcement of the rules. This will make the rules the organizational norms.

Leading by example

Third, continue to follow through on enforcement. In the beginning, there will be violations but eventually this will be greatly reduced as people realize the importance of discipline. Supervisors should continue to persuade and remind people that discipline is for the good of all.

Fourth, make sure your managers are role modeling the right behaviors. Breakdown starts when leaders themselves think they are above the rules. If management does not behave with integrity according to the rules, then enforcement would be difficult.

Most importantly, the culture of discipline has to begin with the family. With discipline, children grow up respecting the laws and the rights of other people.

I am reminded of God's wisdom. He set forth the rules to discipline us, in clear and specific terms, in the 10 commandments. I dream of the day when we drop the mentality that rules and laws are simply "optional" or "okay unless you are caught." May you persevere in instilling a culture of discipline in your company.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

GENXER'S ADVICE FOR ANXIOUS EMPLOYERS

How to handle your GenX talents

By Rose Margaret G. Monis

IF you're the boss and you want to understand and know how to handle a volatile but truly gifted employee, it is imperative for you to know your rebel.

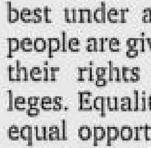
Who or what is a rebel, really? Webster's New World Dictionary defines a rebel as "one who resists authority" or "one who feels and shows aversion to it." There are different types of rebels, though.

Types of rebels

There are rebels who relish discord and chaos, who agree only to disagree, who argue just for the sake of arguing. Then, there are rebels who are really dreamers at heart. They are the free spirits who often color our world with great ideas, inventions and classic literature.

I remember the classic 60s movie, "To Sir With Love" that starred Sidney Poitier. He portrayed an American teacher who became loved and respected by a group of really diverse, impassioned and tough British kids. In one of his lectures about life, the Poitier's character said that any change is a form of rebellion. Thus, rebellion can actually be a good thing.

POSTCARDS *from the* **CORPORATE EDGE**



Good rebel

So, before you decide that having a rebel on the payroll is too much of a risk, think again and determine what kind of rebel you have. If he is the good kind, the visionary kind, I dare suggest that you let him stick around. You never know what he can bring to the company or teach you--you're not too old learn, are you? And anyway, you don't usually fire a rebel. He fires you.

Try understanding what tickles your rebel and what ticks him off. Here are my observations on this score.

A rebels wants:

* A boss he can respect. A rebel needs a boss who means what he says and says what he means--a boss who can walk the talk and is actually worth his mettle.

* Fair play. There is nothing that turns a rebel off than a boss who plays favorites. He scorns the boss who lets a worker get away with bootlicking behavior.

* Freedom--lots of it. Freedom to create, freedom to be himself, freedom to be a little late, freedom to make mistakes. . A rebel who is given a lot of rope will be one happy rebel. Don't worry, should he hit a snag along the way, the rebel will be the first one to use the rope to hang himself with.

* Kindness. He may be opinionated and passionate about a lot of things and may be surly once in awhile, but a rebel will never put another person down for being different.

* Distance. A rebel may brood but he is not anti-social. He does relish his own space though. A healthy respect for his space, privacy and peace will keep your rebel balanced and pleased.

Rebel turn-offs

A rebel dislikes:

* A boss who nags. Have a little faith in your rebel. If he is competent, trust that he will get the next job done. Breathing down his neck will only make him lose his cool. It will also work if your give him clear-cut assignments and schedules. Don't expect him to read your mind and priorities.

* Gossip, which is really a waste of any person's time, is not only counter-productive, it also breeds ill will. Do not gossip with a rebel or worse, involve him in one. It may not turn out to be pretty for you.

* Routine. Expand your rebel's scope of work. If he is eligible for the position above him, then by all means, promote him. Money and power may not be the end-all and be-all in a rebel's career but he would sure like to feel that he is appreciated and getting somewhere.

* Cruelty and ruthlessness. Do not bully a rebel or others. A rebel cannot thrive and will refuse to stand cruel and ruthless behavior done to him and others.

* Inequality. A rebel operates best under a democracy, where people are given liberties to enjoy their rights and certain privileges. Equality, transparency and equal opportunities will get you many a loyal and hardworking worker, rebel or otherwise.

Keeping your rebel

How can you motivate your rebel to stay with your company?

You can offer him the following:

* Flexible time. A rebel is not necessarily a perennial latecomer but he can be late sometimes but this does not mean that he is not a productive worker. A rebel wouldn't mind rendering beyond nine man hours a day and without pay at that just to get the work done. I often wish that employers and bosses would measure productivity more from output and quality of work than punctuality. There are employees who do come on time but are clock watchers or cheat the company of man hours by gossiping, selling products or doing things that are not work-related at all. Give your rebel a break by giving him flexitime.

*Time for creative spells. Understand that for some people, creativity may come in spurts and is not always on active call 24/7. So if your rebel seems to be staring into space or fiddling with a pen seemingly not working, know that inwardly, he may be in hot pursuit of the muses.

Caring for your rebel will reap great rewards for your company by keeping within the company talents who can help your company grow.

(Send contributions to Postcards to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

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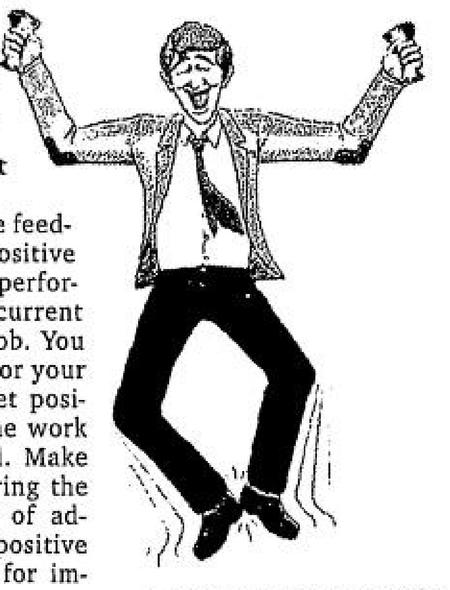
Six ways to enjoy work

By Joel Garfinkle



1. APPRECIATE a co-worker. Think of a co-worker (boss, manager, employee, mentor, co-worker) and schedule a meeting where you can spend the entire time showing them all the appreciation you have for him or her.

2. Slow down. Slow down and enjoy the work you are doing right now. Don't rush just to finish the work, but enjoy the process so the journey of work becomes wonderful.

3. Be grateful for eight minutes. Spend only eight minutes of your day increasing your awareness of the gratefulness you have at work. You can do this exercise in the morning before your day begins or at lunch or at the end of your day.

4. Ask for positive feedback. Ask for positive feedback on your performance within your current project or overall job. You don't have to wait for your yearly review to get positive feedback on the work you are doing well. Make sure the person giving the feedback is aware of addressing only the positive and not the areas for improvement.

5. Pick the most enjoyable activity. Make a list of all the activities you need to complete today. Rather than picking the most productive or the one you "should" do, choose the one you really want to do.

6. Create an enjoyable project to work on. Think of a project you would enjoy working on and propose this to your employer. Explain the benefits to the company of their supporting this project. Besides impressing your boss with your ingenuity, you will be turning your current job into a dream job.

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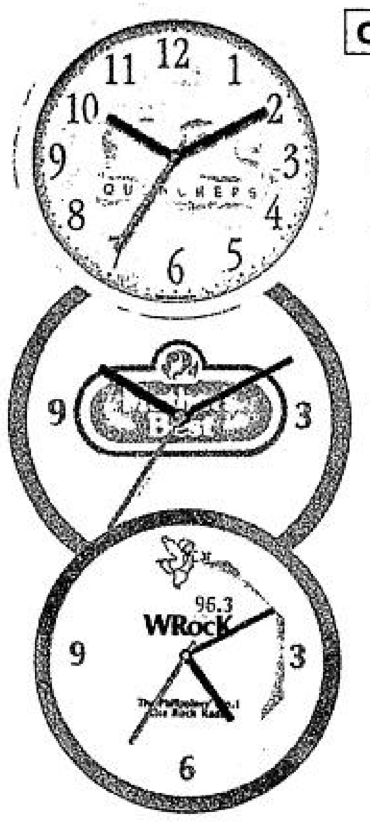

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◉ Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

2bU! to be you • to be young • To be you! • to be young

Talkin' talk and music with D'Sound

A Norwegian group is amazed at how Filipinos have taken to their music with passion

By Beia Formoso
2bUI Correspondent

NOWADAYS it's easy for a band to become famous—all they have to do is be good-looking and be able to lip-synch while dancing. They don't have to play instruments or even know how to sing; the record company will take care of everything—from music videos, mall tours, even guesting on Oprah. But D'Sound is a band that doesn't care much for the hoopla that comes with being artists. Their music is and always will be the only thing that matters besides the bond they have with each other.

Composed of Jonny Sjo (bass), Kim Ofstad (drums) and Simone (vocals), D'Sound were here to perform at the launch party of Shangri-La Plaza Mall's The 5th last Saturday night. A mix of acid jazz, R&B, soul and funk, their music can be heard on local radio stations Citylite, the Wave and Crossover.

While most people haven't heard of the band, their songs are popular among the younger generation, especially the romantic ballad "Tattooed on my Mind," the upbeat jazzy hit "Smooth Escape" and their latest single "Talkin' Talk," which is also the jingle for Nokia's latest advertisement campaign.

But becoming pop was not something the group planned on. Says Simone, "We always believed in our music, but we didn't think it had that kind of commercial approach that it has had, so we are still sometimes amazed if we get a hit. We're just grateful that, especially here in the Philippines, we have so many fans, and it's amazing."

"It was a big surprise to know that [our music] is picking up in the Philippines," adds Jonny. From their humble beginnings of rehearsing in a basement in their native Oslo, Norway, to staying in a five-star hotel and preparing for a concert for an SRO crowd in Manila, indeed the band has come a long way.

"We make our

TALKIN' p.C2

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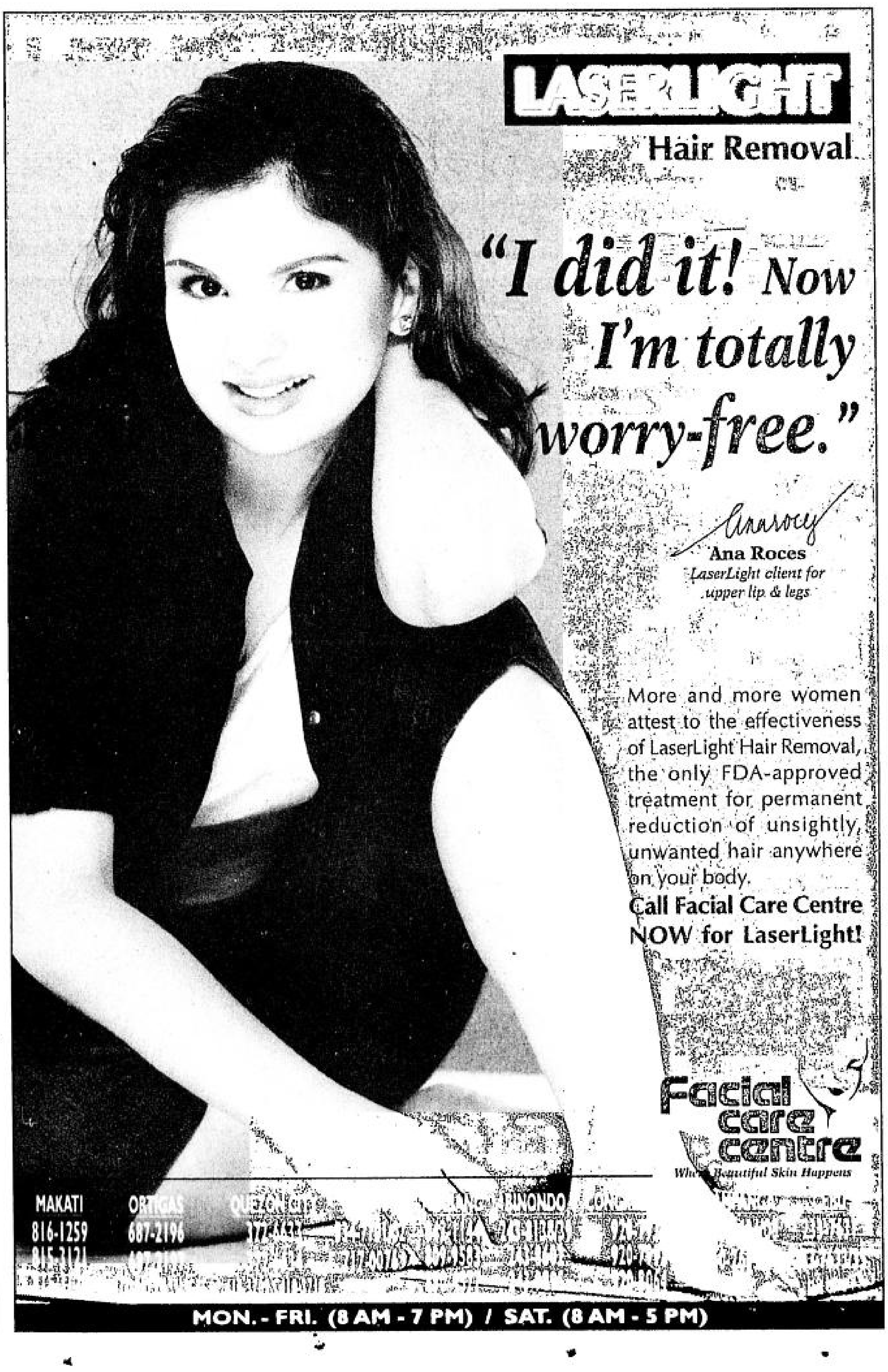

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Talkin' talk and music with D'Sound

From page C1

songs because we like it and the better thing is when you get a response, and the best thing is when you get a response outside of your country," says Jonny, "You know that people halfway across the world listen to your music. [We're] crossing borders, crossing cultures, meeting people we never thought we were going to travel to play concerts for—I'm honest, we never thought that we would be touring outside of Norway."

On the night they arrived in Manila, they were taken to a club where the local band Great Divide was playing. Suddenly, and unaware of D'Sound's presence, the local band began to perform "Tattooed on My Mind." According to Jonny, they have heard covers of their songs by many bands in Norway, but this particular cover was "Okay!" (with a wide grin and a nod).

Says Kim: "It's a surreal feeling, bizarre in a happy way, a good way. It makes us so humbly thankful and glad that people like our music and they play it." Soon enough, Great Divide was informed that D'Sound was there and the Pinoy musicians requested that they play the song together, so Simone joined them on stage to sing background vocals instead of lead, because "Simone is that [type of] person; when things like this happen, she doesn't want to go in front and be the star," says Jonny.

Originals

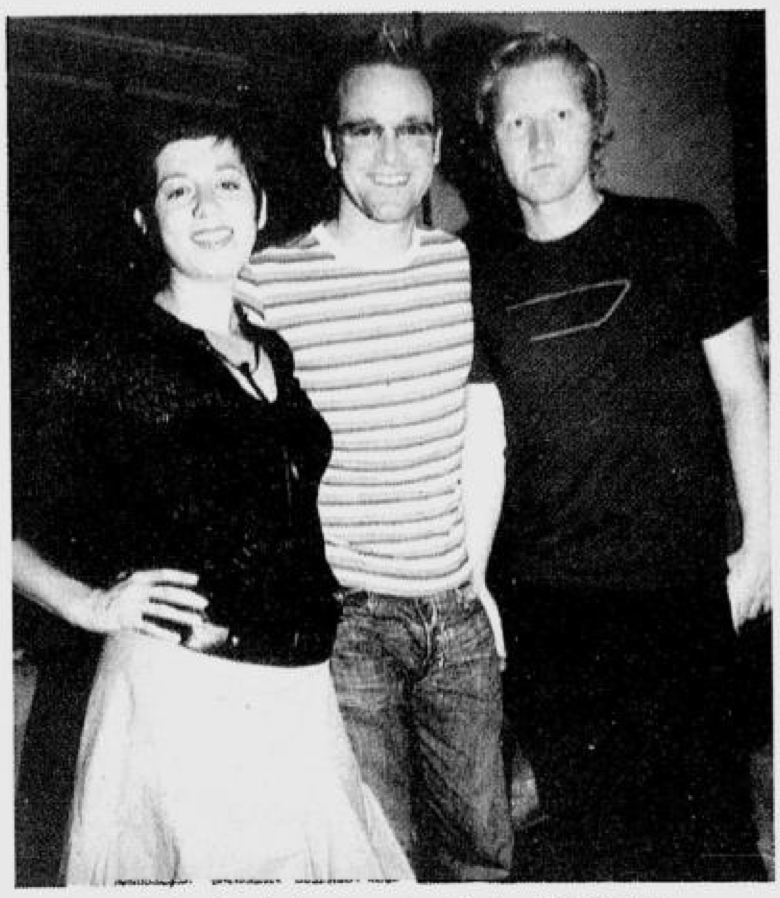
More than stars, however, they are truly hard workers. All of the songs from their three albums—"Beauty is a Blessing," "Spice of Life," "Talkin' Talk"—are original. They write their own compositions and are constantly thinking of new melodies and beats. Already they are working on a new album. "Talkin' Talk," their latest offering, was produced in the United States and was the first they produced on their own.

But not only are they working when coming up with an album, they are also evolving. It is evident when you listen to "Beauty as a Blessing" and "Spice of Life"—both of which focus more on an acid jazz sound—then pop "Talkin' Talk" into your stereo and bask in the R&B, soulful vibe. Inspiration for the tracks in "Talkin' Talk" have come from the likes of Erykah Badu and D'Angelo, who were just emerging in the music scene while D'Sound was producing the album.

The shift from jazz to R&B was not something planned or decided upon by the group: "It's just the way we are," says Simone. Their music is simply a reflection of the inspiration they were getting at the time, how they were feeling, the experiences they were dealing with—the same formula they used for their previous albums. "We just do what's on our mind. Our record label wanted us to do whatever we felt like because they wanted to bring out a hundred percent of what we had inside. If we tried to make the album like 'Beauty is a Blessing,' [if we] tried to reproduce the same sound, it wouldn't be right for us. That's how it is to be an artist really, you have to follow your heart," shares Kim.

Long way

D'Sound has not only changed musically, but as a group. "I believe that we've come a long way," says Simone. "I think the essence of us staying together and continuing creating is that we are all people who are able to compromise with each other. So if you just want to do your own thing, you're not made to be in a group. If you are open, and all of us are extremely open to each other and to other people, you will grow."



D'SOUND DELIGHT. Simone, Jonny and Kim

Like any other band, they have had their share of conflicts. Jonny admits that he is a perfectionist and can be stubborn, which does get on the others' nerves. Simone explains, "We've always known that the three of us are very different persons, but the starch of our relationship has always been the great fascination and respect that we feel toward each other and to the music that each of us does." She shrugs, "There will always be differences." In spite of this, none of the work is done by one member only; every song is a group effort, from the melody to the lyrics.

Writing songs is for the most part a tedious effort, and everyone does it, although Kim acknowledges that Simone and Jonny do most of the writing while he usually creates beats and melodies. For Jonny, "Each song has a different way of developing. When I write a tune, it's not always like I can sit down and write. I have to have a mood where the music kind of visits you, it comes to you and you get that genius line that maybe, someday, is gonna be on the radio, and then you work around it. It's all about impulses we get in life, whether we're happy or sad, and it all goes into the music."

Good sadness

Both Jonny and Simone agree that they write best when they are melancholy, which she dubs as a "good sadness." Music, particularly writing, is therapy for her.

"When I started writing I was just 7 years old, and I did it because I was sad. When I'm happy, I don't need to get any help from music. Of course, I love music when I'm happy, too, but when I really need to write is when I'm sad, to get the load off, relieve my heart. It's a good thing. I believe that good and bad experiences are equal because they take you somewhere and I feel that all our three albums have taken me somewhere."

Workaholics they may be, but they do have lives outside of their music. Jonny points out that it is important for them to do stuff that doesn't have to do with music because it helps them to relax.

"We need that because we work with music all the time. We work hour after hour in front of speakers, listening to what we're trying to do, and you get tired, so you have to do something else." Jonny and Kim play golf together, although Jonny is also into windsurfing and skiing, while Kim is what he calls a "heavy walker." Simone and Kim like to watch TV, and Kim is quick to mention that Simone enjoys watching "The West Wing."

Simone has a number of hobbies. She loves gardening and happily reports that her lychnis are coming out nicely. She knits and just last week, made a pair of wool socks for Jonny. She loves to cook Mediterranean, Turkish, and traditional German and French dishes.

Kim comes across as the reserved type; he didn't disclose anything personal except for his obsession with the band Kiss as a youngster. He loved them so much he would collect their posters from magazines and buy packages of candy just to get the free Kiss stickers inside. (On a musical note, he also memorized the drumbeats to their songs.)

Jonny is a funny guy but can be very serious, especially when he talked about growing up with a younger brother who had Down syndrome. While his brother was a child up until puberty, "he was the most beautiful brother I ever could have," he says, a bit misty-eyed. Having a brother with a disability made Jonny realize how to find beauty in those who are different from us. He also related that he grew up in a strict Christian family, with gospel music filling his house. He even played in the Church band.

Even though she had to whisper all throughout the interview to save her voice for the concert that night, Simone's words were anything but soft and meek. She spoke of how she always felt ugly when she was young.

"I don't know why, maybe because I was a little different. I felt that if only I could get people to think of me as beautiful, everything in my life would be much better. And big was my shock when I discovered that when people started to find me beautiful, life did not get better at all." As the song goes, beauty is a blessing, "then the simple conclusion comes—love is even more." She smiles and says, "Of course my life is still not perfect, but I'm very happy." Simone is so wise and so dramatic, and it shows in the songs that she writes and sings.

Musicians all the way

When asked if they had sought more members for the band, an immediate no was the reply. "They wanted me," quipped Simone, plain and simple.

Kim and Jonny met when they were studying in the Berklee College of Music in the US. When Kim went back to Norway, he and Simone performed gigs at clubs with different musicians, until finally they all came together in 1996. Since then, they have never been apart.

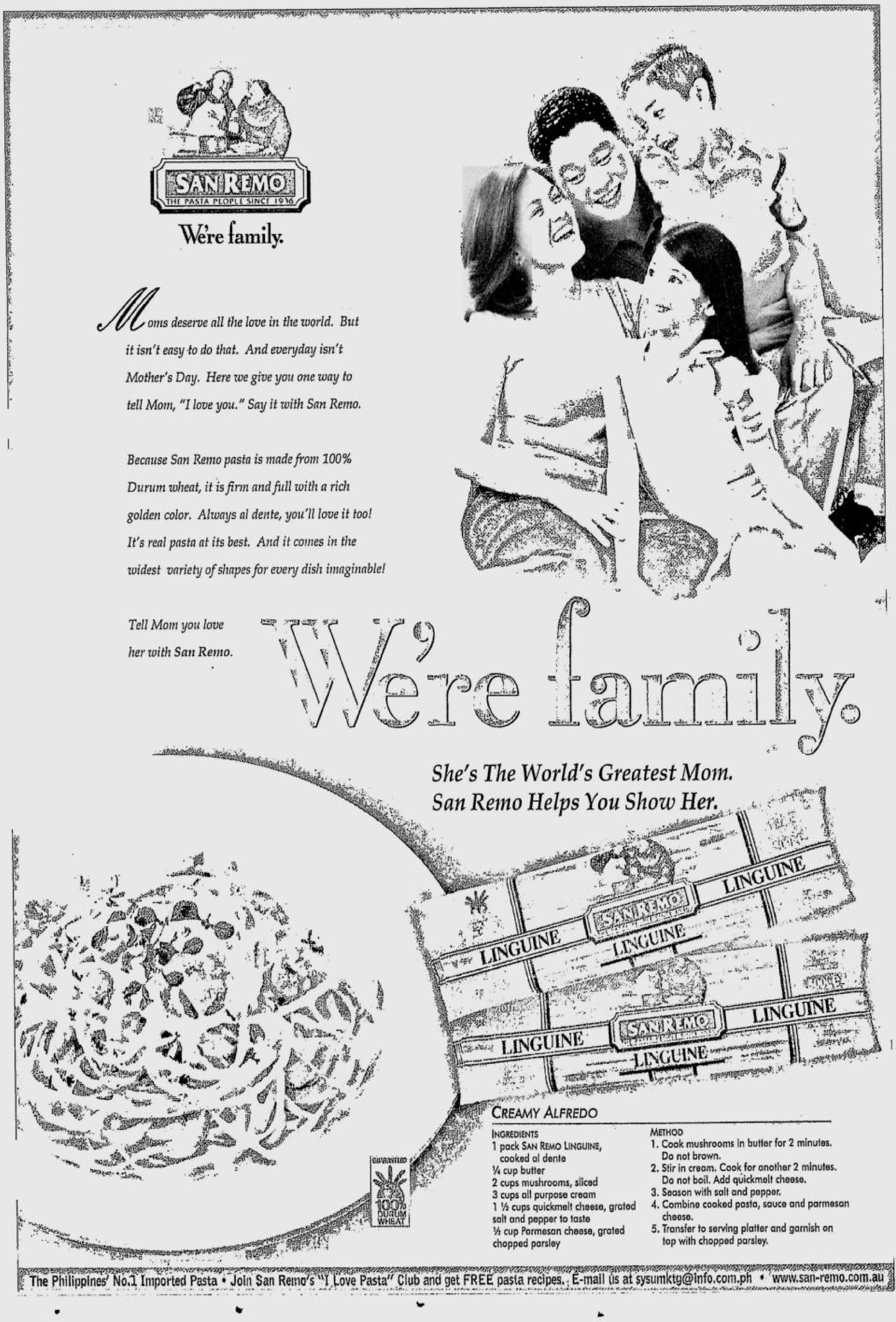
"I've always loved to listen to Jonny and Kim play, and I think they've always liked my voice and the way I write my share of the music," says Simone.

Both Jonny and Kim have nothing but praise for Simone. Jonny elaborates, "She was beautiful. Kim called me and said he had met this great singer and asked me if I wanted to get together and play with him and Simone. She sounded very special. I'm very thankful today that we became a band.

"We are the kind of people that do whatever we feel like at that particular moment, so each album says where we were at that particular time," says Kim. Simone follows with, "We've never been compromising. I think we have always been doing the music we really wanted to do."

With "Talkin' Talk," a new and fresh D'Sound emerges. "It describes us in a nice way. We're about melodies and grooves, and that album really describes us the way we are now," concludes Johnny. "We are musicians all the way. We used to play from when we were little. We've done a lot of styles. We love to be musicians. We're so proud of all our albums and all the songs we've done. We've never made any compromises, never."

Pure, honest and uncompromising—that sounds like D'Sound all right.



SAN REMO
THE PASTA PEOPLE SINCE 1936
We're family.

Moms deserve all the love in the world. But it isn't easy to do that. And everyday isn't Mother's Day. Here we give you one way to tell Mom, "I love you." Say it with San Remo.

Because San Remo pasta is made from 100% Durum wheat, it is firm and full with a rich golden color. Always al dente, you'll love it too! It's real pasta at its best. And it comes in the widest variety of shapes for every dish imaginable!

Tell Mom you love her with San Remo.

We're family.

She's The World's Greatest Mom.
San Remo Helps You Show Her.

CREAMY ALFREDO

INGREDIENTS
1 pack SAN REMO LINGUINE, cooked al dente
¼ cup butter
2 cups mushrooms, sliced
3 cups all purpose cream
1 ½ cups quickmelt cheese, grated
salt and pepper to taste
½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
chopped parsley

METHOD
1. Cook mushrooms in butter for 2 minutes. Do not brown.
2. Stir in cream. Cook for another 2 minutes. Do not boil. Add quickmelt cheese.
3. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Combine cooked pasta, sauce and parmesan cheese.
5. Transfer to serving platter and garnish on top with chopped parsley.

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'Talk' of the town for one wild night

NORWEGIAN band D' Sound has been topping the music charts in Manila, and its one-night performance before a jam-packed Shangri-La Plaza Grand Atrium crowd recently proved its success in this side of the world was no fluke.

HE SAYS

Christian Bautista

The eclectic trio of Simone (vocals), Kim (drums) and Jonny (bass) brought local fans to fever pitch as they performed their usual mix of funk, drum and bass, acid jazz and R&B to launch the "5th, Shangri-la Plaza's new "youth-oriented" level. The party was the last of the mall's countdown concerts. The month-long celebration featured gigs from bands like Hyperbeat, Toy Symphony and Session Road.

Playing hits like "Beauty is a Blessing" and the chart-topping "Talkin' Talk," D' Sound performed a 14-song set that had the crowd dancing into the wee hours.

Parliament Syndicate lifted the curtains for the Norwegian trio with its signature groove-based sound. Aside from performing covers from Erykah Baduh and Incognito, the indie pop-jazz group also belted out tunes from its new album, " A New Day."

D'Sound recently released a new album, "Talkin' Talk," its third studio release. The album is dominated by R&B tracks. Not deviating far from its original sound, the band had the opportunity to produce tracks on the album. The trio collaborated with well-known keyboardist Stein Astrud to make the 13-track album.

Formed in 1993, the group quickly rose to prominence in Norway with the single "Real Name," which topped both the sales and radio charts. In 1997, the band's debut album "Spice of Life" was finally released. The record catapulted the group into the top, garnering two Spellemannprisers, Norway's equivalent of the Grammies.

The release boasts of chart-topping singles like "Smoother Escape" and "All I Wanna Do."

The trio's follow-up record, "Beauty is a Blessing," started the band on a quest for international acclaim. The platinum-selling album again enjoyed massive success in Norway. D'Sound collected more Spellemannprisers, including the much-coveted "Best Norwegian Pop Group" in 1998."Down the Street," a single off the album, made a mark on the UK club charts.

Before performing "Play Me This Song," Simone talked about a local fan who e-mailed them, saying, "Please, if you ever come to Manila, I want to play with you." The fortunate fan, guitarist Allan Casal, got his wish that night, to the wild applause of the audience.

Obviously nervous, Casal joked, "*Sumulat ako sa* 'Wish Ko Lang.'" But he proved to be more than able, even performing a solo to end the song.

The two-hour concert also had the band performing such familiar tunes as "Tattooed on My Mind," "Every Raindrop" and "Sweet Music" to the delight of the crowd.

IF YOU thought that D'Sound is simply a band that composes wistful songs and catchy, ad-friendly beats, think again.

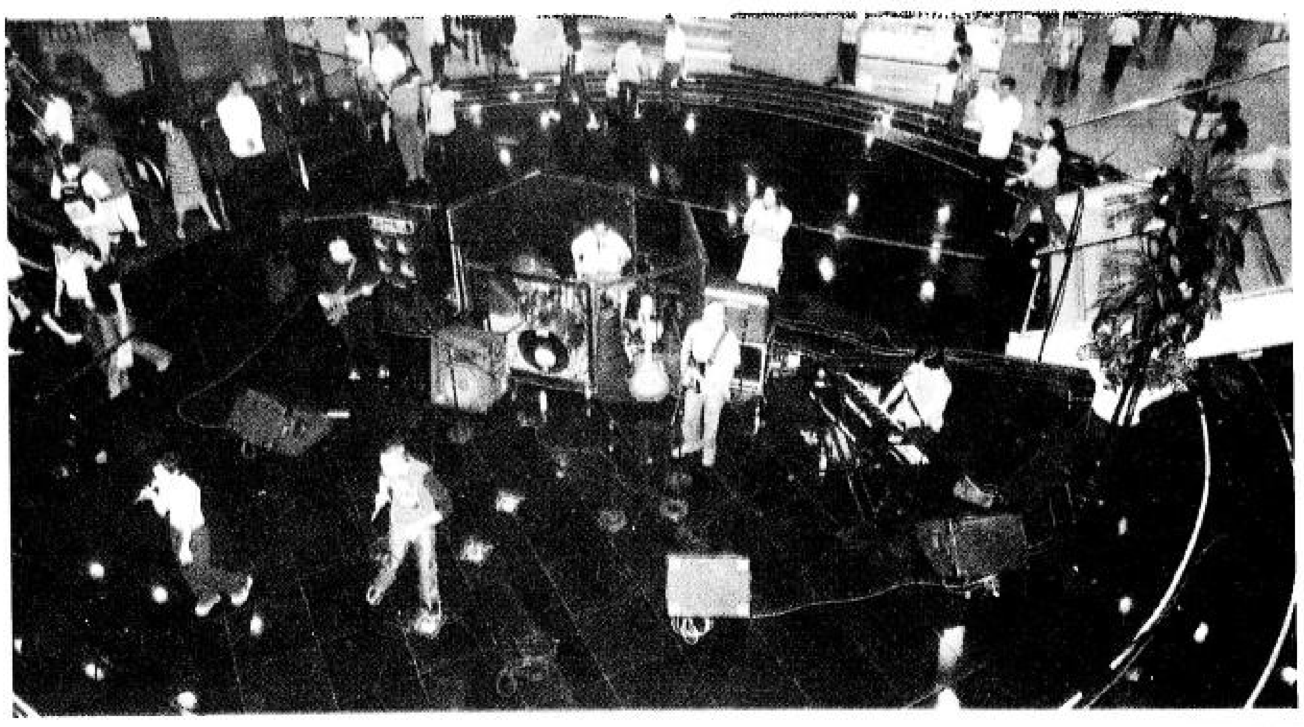
Recently, Norway's best musical import, D'Sound, brought the Shangri-La Plaza down with an amazing live performance that lasted way into the night, after mall hours, of course. They sang tracks from both of their previous albums, "Spice of Life" and "Beauty is a Blessing," as well as singles from their latest record, "Talkin' Talk," and showed the range and depth of their musicality, swinging from soul to jazz to funk to contemporary R&B as smoothly as vocalist Simone's singing. Although the more popular songs of the band, such as the eternal favorite "Tattooed on My Mind" and the groovy "Talkin' Talk," can be carelessly classified under easy listening, D'Sound music is definitely more than that.

SHE SAYS

Sep Mahino

At the Shangri-La concert, Simone passionately belted out songs just like any diva and displayed her skills at scatting—something which she admitted to doing while in the shower. Guitarist Jonny Sjo and drummer Kim Ofstad also took their turns at impressing the already-impressed audience by riffing on the guitar and keeping the Shangri-La walls booming with a brilliant drum solo. The band kept the energy level high long after midnight by encouraging their fans to clap, sing and scat along.

But of course, the show simply could not end without D'Sound playing "Tattooed on My Mind." And once the band started playing the song, everyone simply had to sing along, transported to a couple of years back when they first heard it and fell in love with it. After the show ended with the band and the audience singing "Enjoy," the song which best describes the general feeling that evening, everyone left wishing for more. But D'Sound fans would simply have to wait for their next show in the country—something that the band has promised to come back for.



D'Sound closed with 'Enjoy,' the song that best describes the general feeling that evening

It helps her attend medical conferences.
And then rejuvenates her with free massages.
Isabel Avanceña, Pediatrician
MasterCard
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

These days, Isabel finds more reasons to use her Dolce Vita, the newest offering from AIG Credit Cards. She charges her registration and other conference expenses so she can avail of automatic rewards. There's a list of choices for herself and for her loved ones. For herself, she can find free spa treatments, personal care services and personality enhancement classes. For her man, she buys gifts at special prices. For her kids, she can count on great deals in toys, hobbies and children's apparel. For her entire family, she takes advantage of installment mark downs in appliances, furniture and privileges for hotels, resorts and restaurants.

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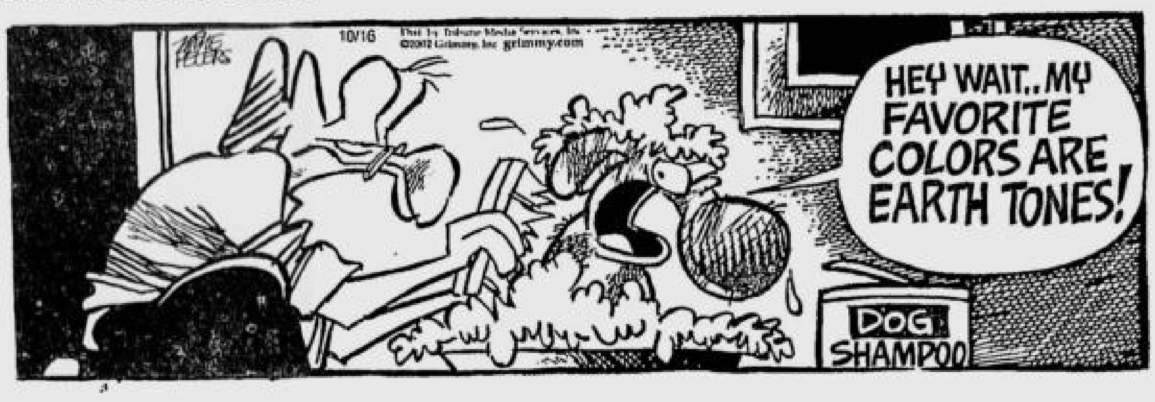
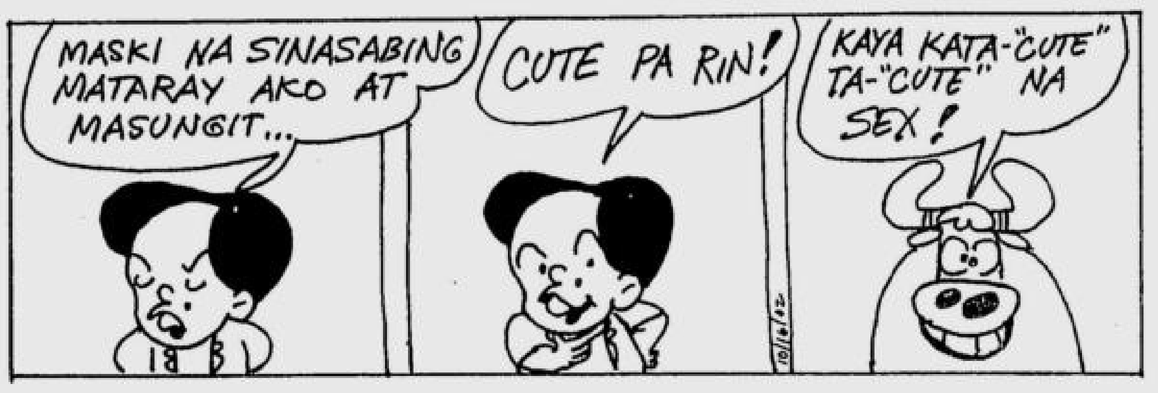
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2002

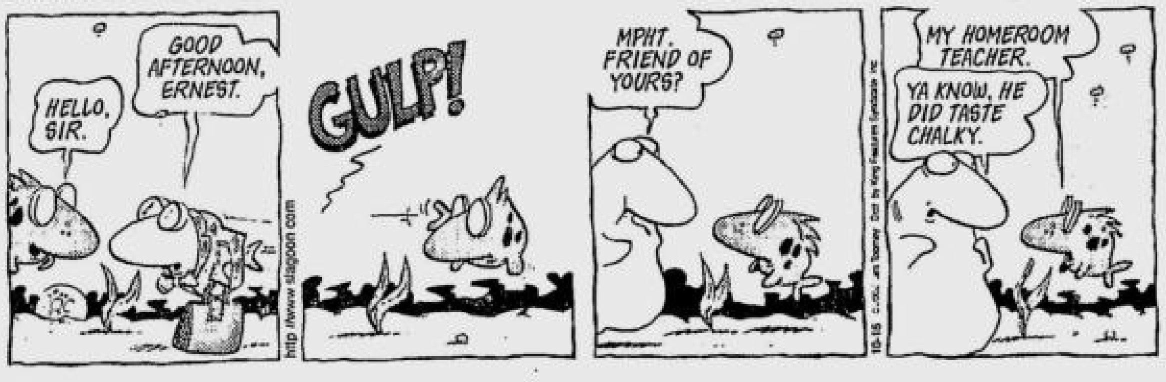
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


MIKE PETERS
10/16
grimmy.com
HEY WAIT.. MY FAVORITE COLORS ARE EARTH TONES!
DOG SHAMPOO

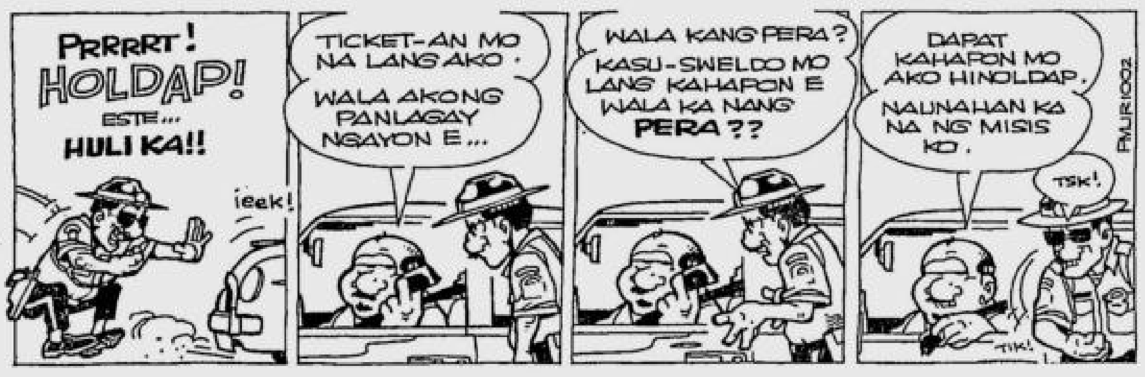
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MASKI NA SINASABING MATARAY AKO AT MASUNGIT...
CUTE PA RIN!
10/16/02
KAYA KATA-"CUTE" TA-"CUTE" NA SEX!

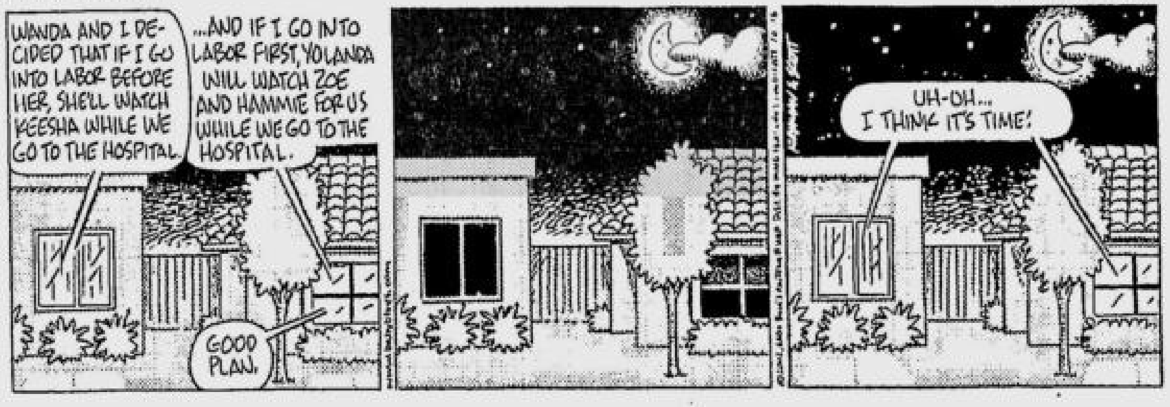
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HELLO, SIR.
GOOD AFTERNOON, ERNEST.
http://www.slagoon.com
GULP!
MPHT. FRIEND OF YOURS?
10-16
MY HOMEROOM TEACHER.
YA KNOW, HE DID TASTE CHALKY.

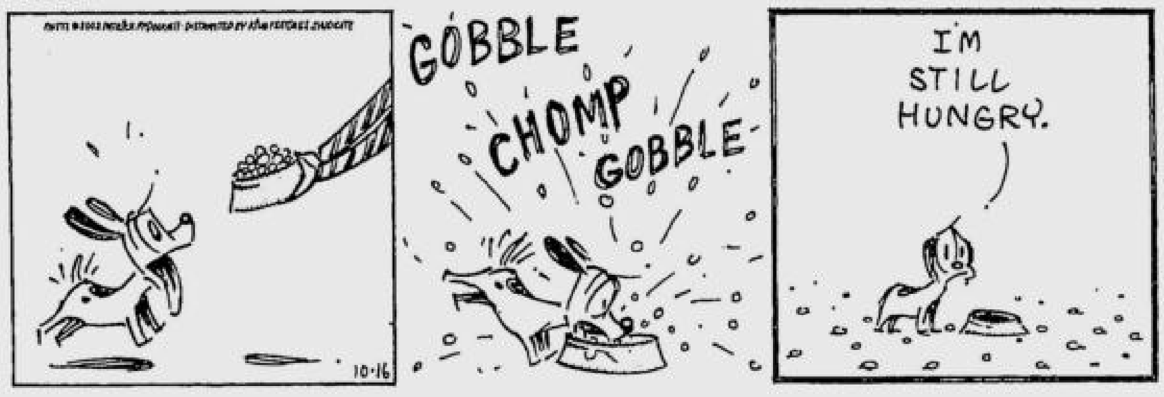
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PRRRRT! HOLDAP! ESTE... HULI KA!!
ieek!
TICKET-AN MO NA LANG AKO.
WALA AKONG PANLAGAY NGAYON E...
WALA KANG PERA? KASU-SWELDO MO LANG KAHAPON E WALA KA NANG PERA??
DAPAT KAHAPON MO AKO HINOLDAP.
NAUNAHAN KA NA NG MISIS KO.
TSK!
TIK!
PMJR1002

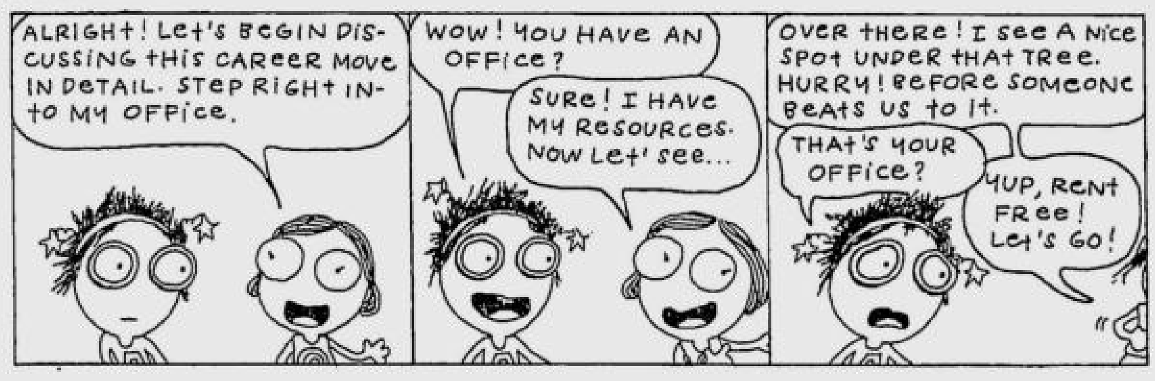
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA AND I DECIDED THAT IF I GO INTO LABOR BEFORE HER, SHE'LL WATCH KEESHA WHILE WE GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
...AND IF I GO INTO LABOR FIRST, YOLANDA WILL WATCH ZOE AND HAMMIE FOR US WHILE WE GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
GOOD PLAN.
UH-OH... I THINK IT'S TIME!

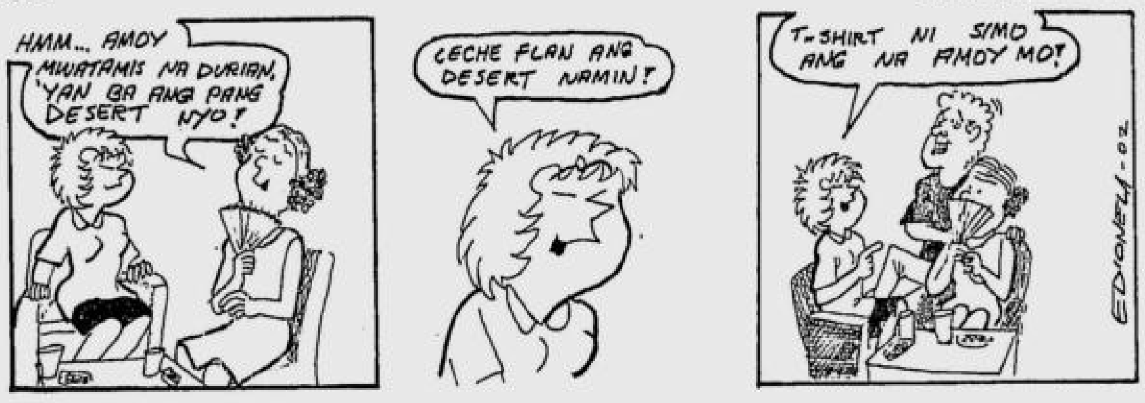
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GOBBLE
CHOMP
GOBBLE
10-16
I'M STILL HUNGRY.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ALRIGHT! LET'S BEGIN DISCUSSING THIS CAREER MOVE IN DETAIL. STEP RIGHT INTO MY OFFICE.
WOW! YOU HAVE AN OFFICE?
SURE! I HAVE MY RESOURCES. NOW LET' SEE...
OVER THERE! I SEE A NICE SPOT UNDER THAT TREE. HURRY! BEFORE SOMEONE BEATS US TO IT.
THAT'S YOUR OFFICE?
YUP, RENT FREE! LET'S GO!

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


HMM... AMOY MUATAMIS NA DURIAN, 'YAN BA ANG PANG DESERT NYO!
LECHE FLAN ANG DESERT NAMIN!
T-SHIRT NI SIMO ANG NA AMOY MO!
EDIONELA-02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tim Robbins, Angela Lansbury, Bob Weir, Linda Darnell

Happy Birthday: The more interaction you have with others, the more confidence you will have in yourself. You will be sympathetic to others' needs and well-liked in your circle of friends. Your concern with the welfare of others will lead you into organizations that offer help to causes you believe in. Your numbers are 8, 27, 31, 33, 39, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opportunities for partnerships are present, however, you must get every detail in writing. Don't make assumptions or jump to conclusions. If it's unclear, ask questions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will gain notice if you've been pursuing your goals. You may be disgruntled by the way situations are being handled in your personal life. Talk to your emotional partner about what is bothering you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a good time for you to take a trip. You can accomplish the most if you travel for business purposes. Your ability to communicate your ideas will help you get your point across and give you valuable connections.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have a little more energy than usual. Take advantage of this and put it to good use. This is a wonderful time to express yourself or improve your appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Tread softly where your emotions are concerned. You can make or break your personal relationship today. Don't show your temper when dealing with the boss. Someone at work hasn't been trustworthy, so be careful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your high energy will enable you to enlist the help of those in a position to back you. Don't be shy. Ask for the support you need. You can make money if you put your mind to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes regarding your career direction will pay off handsomely. Don't be afraid to take a chance. Consider investing some of your earnings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. It's time to make some serious changes in your financial situation. Implement a new course of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can discuss your findings with your boss behind closed doors. Don't be afraid to lay your cards on the table. A change in position will be better than you thought.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your added discipline will help you complete the impossible at work. Your employer will be impressed and you will be offered opportunities for more responsibility and earning potential.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Travel for business purposes will bring the highest returns. Don't be too eager to dismiss someone who works under you. Make sure you hear all sides of the situation before making any decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully today. Get the red tape and unwanted paperwork out of the way. It will be clear sailing and you can make good progress.

Birthday Baby: You will be sensitive, caring and very in tune with everyone around you. You will take a very unusual approach to the way you solve problems. You will be guided by your intelligence and intuition.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22					■
23			■	24				■	25				■	■
■	■	■	26				■	27			■	28	29	30
31	32	33			■	■	34			■	35			
36					37	38				39				
40				■	41			■	■	42				
43			■	44			■	45	46			■	■	■
■	■	47	48			■	49				■	50	51	52
■	53					54					55			
56					■	57				■	58			
59					■	60				■	61			
62					■	63				■	64			

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/16/02

ACROSS
1 Ointment
5 Lady's address
9 Heavily fleshed
14 Hand-cream additive
15 Equal to the task
16 Caine film
17 Portent
18 Thompson of "Family"
19 Donations
20 Start of Kevin Gildea quip
23 Transgression
24 Falsehoods
25 Critic Rex
26 Hive population
27 Actress Myrna
28 Clerical vestment
31 Polynesian island group
34 Goal
35 MX minus III
36 Part 2 of quip
40 GM make, for short
41 "The Gold Bug" penner
42 Sen. Kefauver
43 __ chi ch'uan
44 Highland boy
45 Salton and Sargasso
47 First felon
49 1943 penny metal
50 Herbal quaff
53 End of quip
56 "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" star
57 Not pro
58 Breach of security
59 Lift the spirits of
60 Bump into
61 Clio or Erato
62 Tied in bundles
63 Small whirlpool
64 Gush forth

DOWN
1 Foundation
2 Acceptable excuse
3 Identify oneself to a computer
4 List of program options
5 Five iron
6 Slackens
7 Robert and Alan
8 Nasty
9 Century plant
10 Slur over
11 Sworn statement
12 Yugoslavian dictator
13 Positive reply
21 Collect bit by bit
22 Distinctive smell
26 Long scarves
27 Illuminated
29 Gin and tonic garnish
30 Partiality
31 Man from Aberdeen
32 __ breve
33 Having curative properties
34 Ripen
35 Army meal
37 Bristol-Myers toothpaste
38 Silent assent
39 Humdinger
44 Hoisted
45 Used a strainer
46 Being
48 Colorful chalcedony
49 Divided into sectors
50 Traffic snarl
51 Obliterate
52 Awry
53 Gaucho's lariat
54 Designate
55 Shade trees
56 Gal at the ball

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	M	A	■	E	W	E	R	S	■	A	Q	U	A
I	R	A	N	■	S	A	M	O	A	■	N	U	M	B
S	I	C	K	■	P	R	I	A	M	■	T	I	P	S
P	S	H	A	W	■	M	R	M	U	S	I	C	■	■
S	H	I	R	E	■	■	■	S	E	E	■	K	L	M
■	■	N	A	P	P	E	D	■	L	A	N	D	A	U
T	R	E	■	T	I	R	E	■	C	L	O	R	I	S
E	E	G	S	■	S	A	L	V	O	■	W	A	N	E
S	T	U	A	R	T	■	T	I	L	T	■	W	E	S
L	A	N	D	H	O	■	A	N	T	H	E	M	■	■
A	R	K	■	E	L	M	■	■	■	I	N	C	A	N
■	■	E	L	A	P	S	E	D	■	S	I	G	M	A
A	B	L	E	■	E	D	N	A	S	■	G	R	A	M
W	E	L	T	■	T	O	O	T	H	■	M	A	Z	E
L	A	Y	S	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■	A	W	E	S

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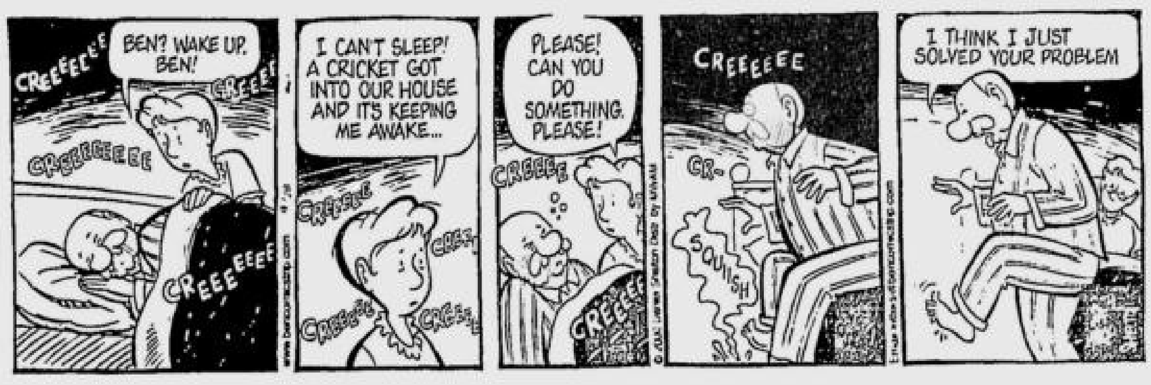
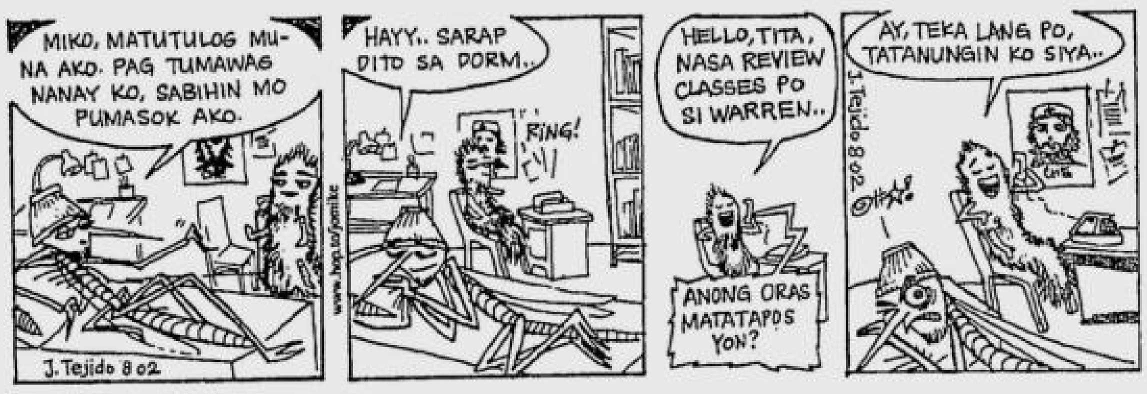
10/16/02

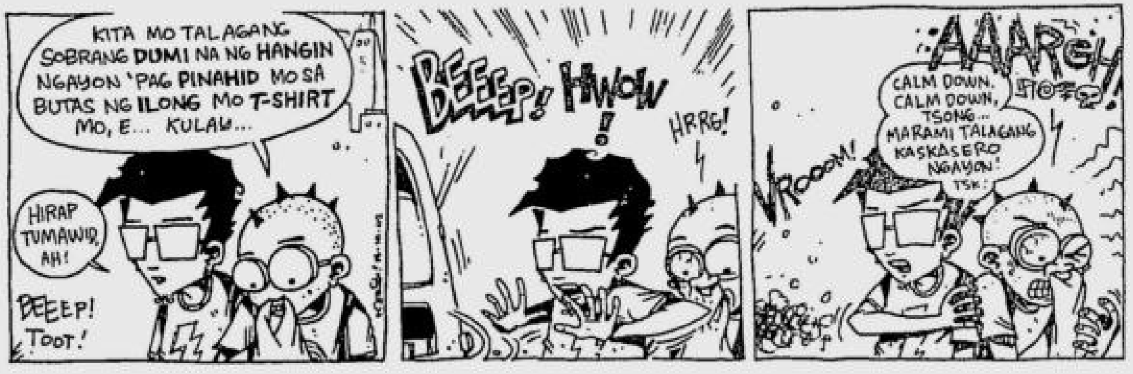
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CREEEEEEE
BEN? WAKE UP, BEN!
CREEEE!
CREEEEEEEEE
CREEEEEEE
I CAN'T SLEEP! A CRICKET GOT INTO OUR HOUSE AND IT'S KEEPING ME AWAKE...
CREEEE
CREEE
CREEEE
PLEASE! CAN YOU DO SOMETHING. PLEASE!
CREEEE
CREEEE
CREEEEEE
CR-
SQUISH
I THINK I JUST SOLVED YOUR PROBLEM

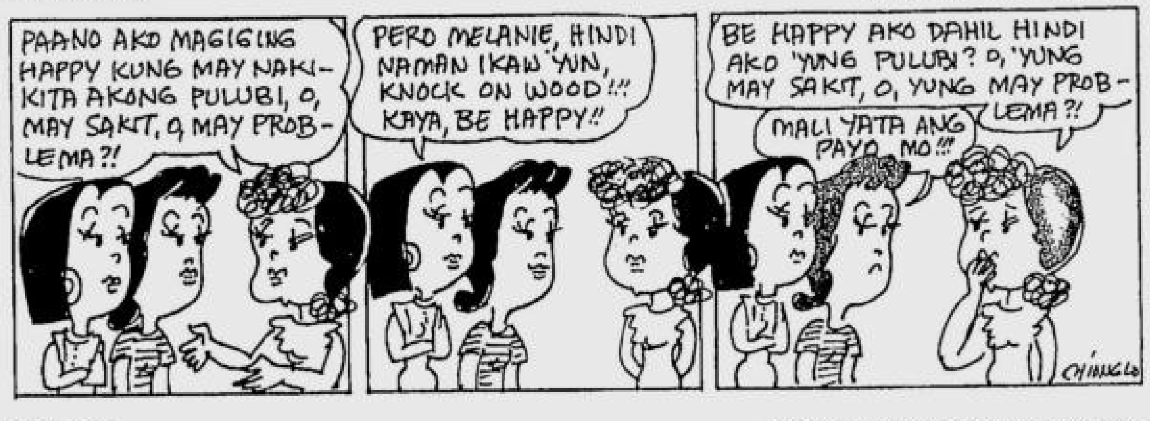
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MIKO, MATUTULOG MUNA AKO. PAG TUMAWAG NANAY KO, SABIHIN MO PUMASOK AKO.
J. Tejido 8 02
HAYY.. SARAP DITO SA DORM..
RING!
HELLO, TITA, NASA REVIEW CLASSES PO SI WARREN..
ANONG ORAS MATATAPOS YON?
AY, TEKA LANG PO, TATANUNGIN KO SIYA..
J. Tejido 8 02

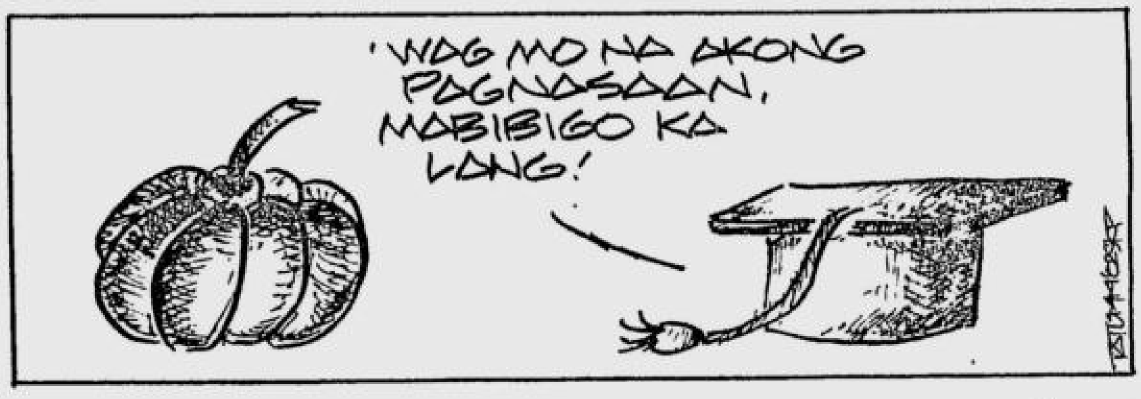
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KITA MO TALAGANG SOBRANG DUMI NA NG HANGIN NGAYON 'PAG PINAHID MO SA BUTAS NG ILONG MO T-SHIRT MO, E... KULAW...
HIRAP TUMAWID, AH!
BEEEP! TOOT!
BEEEP! HWOW
HRRG!
AAARGH
CALM DOWN. CALM DOWN, TSONG... MARAMI TALAGANG KASKASERO NGAYON! TSK!
VROOOM!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PAANO AKO MAGIGING HAPPY KUNG MAY NAKIKITA AKONG PULUBI, O, MAY SAKIT, O MAY PROBLEMA?!
PERO MELANIE, HINDI NAMAN IKAW 'YUN, KNOCK ON WOOD!!! KAYA, BE HAPPY!!
BE HAPPY AKO DAHIL HINDI AKO 'YUNG PULUBI? O, 'YUNG MAY SAKIT, O, YUNG MAY PROBLEMA?!
MALI YATA ANG PAYO MO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG MO NA AKONG PAGNASAAN, MABIBIGO KA LANG!

The perils of being well endowed

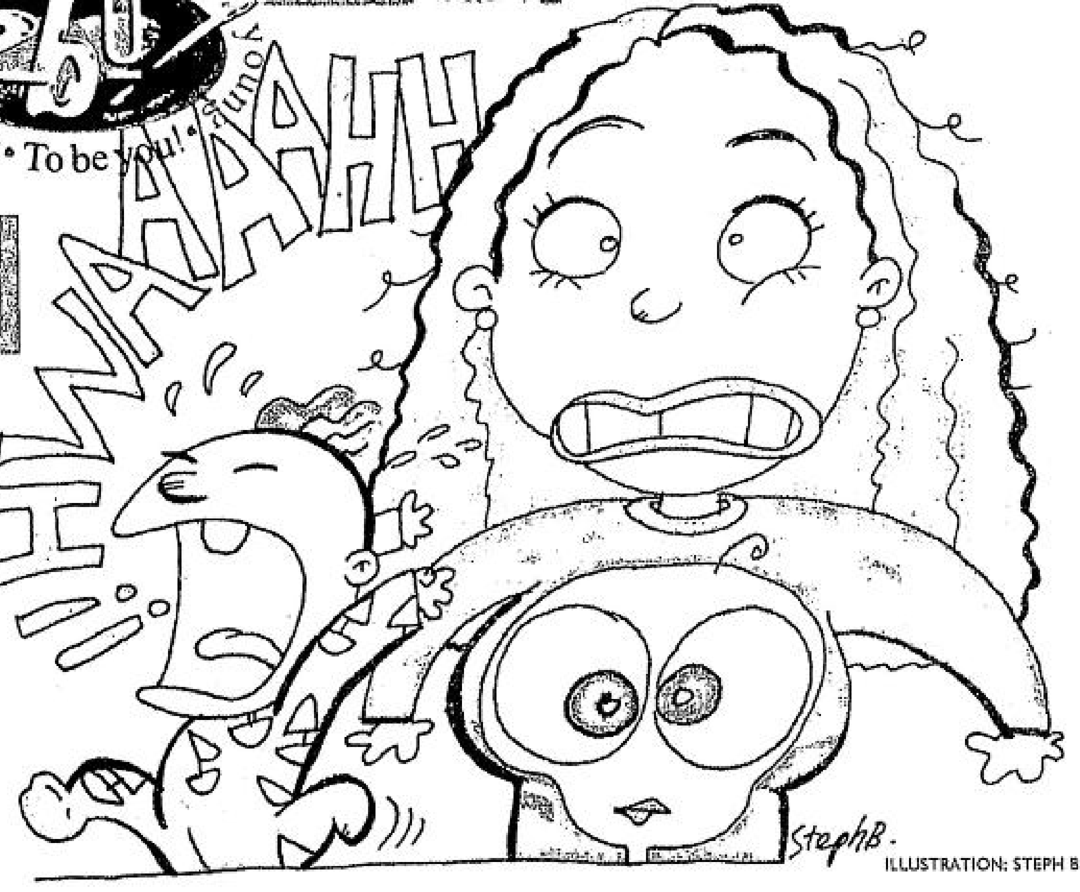


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Pam Pastor

> Having big boobs has good points. At least no one would mistake you for a man

A WOMAN in the office approached me. "*Bili ka naman ng bra sa akin.*"

I replied, pointing to my chest, "*Meron ka bang size ko?*" (Do you have bras in my size?)

"*Oo naman, meron pa ngang* 80, 85."

"*Meron ka bang* cup D?"

"*Meron bang ganun?*"

Yes, I'm a walking freak.

If the gods of Planet Boob added one inch to my chest size for every single time people told me they wished they had my breasts, I wouldn't be able to fit through doors. Scratch that, I'd probably be so top-heavy I wouldn't be able to stand at all.

Women who keep wishing for bigger breasts should be asked to walk around with huge stuffed bras so they could understand that the whole deal is overrated.

I have 36Cs (38Ds now, I suspect, but I really don't want to know for sure), and they've given me more trouble than I thought possible.

- Trying to find a button-down shirt that fits perfectly is infernal. Either you end up with one that fits perfectly, except that you can't fasten the buttons on your chest, or you end up with one that you can actually button completely, but makes you look like you raided someone (read: someone bigger) else's closet.
- Shirts with cutesy cartoons, logos or in-your-face statements emblazoned on the chest are a no-no—unless you want the design to look completely distorted."
- Trying to find a bra that fits is infernal, too. When you live in a country where 34B is considered big, you know that the chances of you finding the perfect brassiere are slim to none. Minus the occasional successful shopping trips, I usually have to resort to asking relatives abroad to get bras for me.
- People touch them. I will never forget the day one of the secretaries in the dotcom I used to work for barged into the bathroom while I was brushing my teeth, reached out, squeezed one of my breasts and said, "*Totoo ba 'yan?*"
- People see them before they see you. A couple of years back, my best friend J saw what I meant. We were walking in Glorietta when he noticed that people were staring at my chest. Get this—I was actually wearing a hoodie over my top. "*Ano ba 'yan!*" J said, getting annoyed. He pointed his finger at the next guy who stared and said, "*Ayan, isa pa 'yan!*" That cracked us up. But that kind of thing is something I've always had to deal with.
- They become an invitation to unwanted attention.
- Men obsess about them—too much.
- While the effects of maximizers or push-up bras can be appreciated (think "Erin Brockovich"), the minimizers don't seem to work. To illustrate, here's a conversation I had with my mom a few months back.

Mom said, "*Ang laki-laki yata ng boobs mo ngayon.*"

I replied, rolling my eyes, "*Ma, naka-minimizer na ako.*"

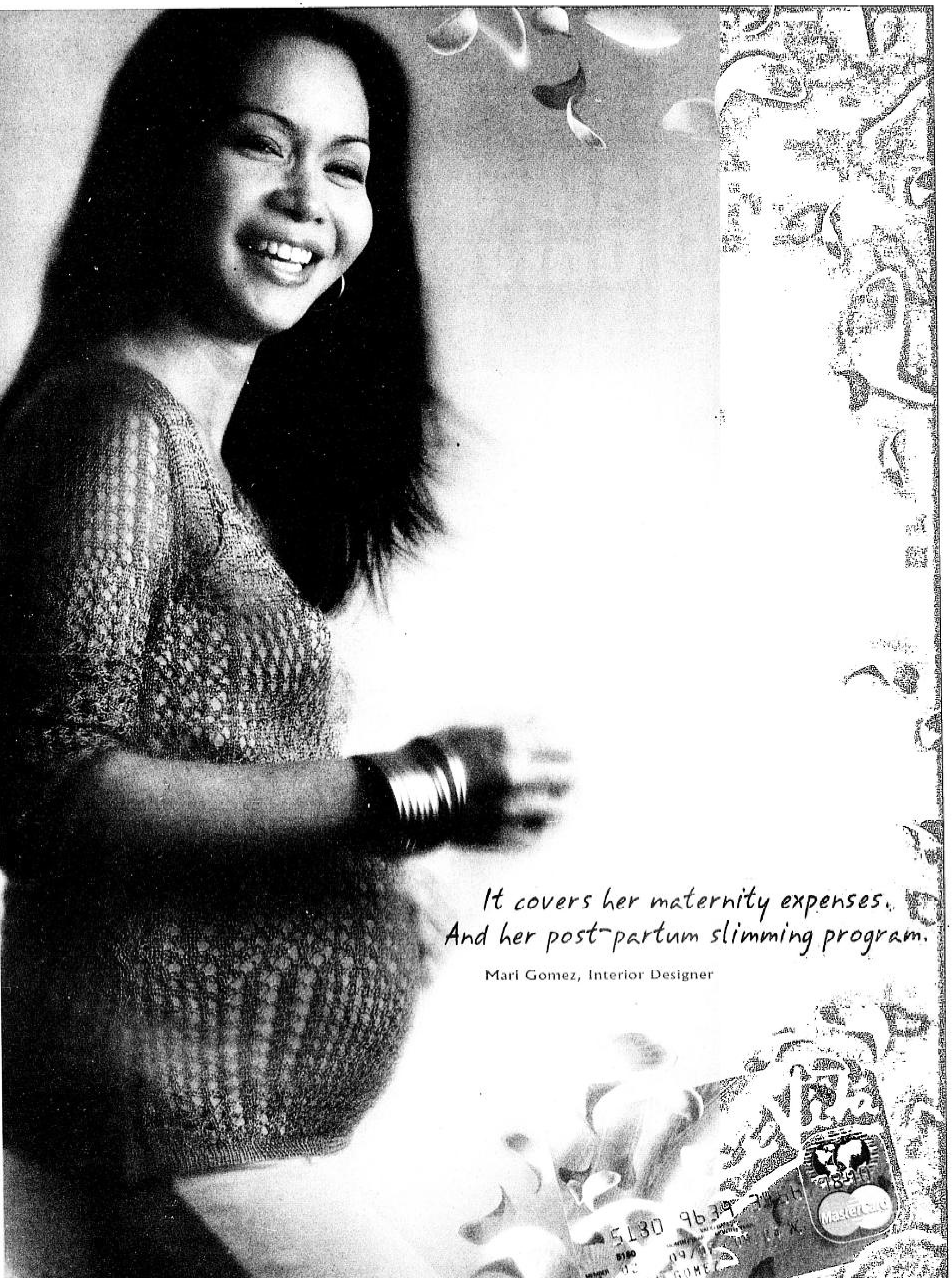
- Sleeping on your stomach is an impossible feat. Me sleeping on my stomach equals suffocation, big time.
- Can never go bra-less. And because it's difficult to get strapless bras in my size, there are a lot of clothes I would never get to wear.
- They bounce—even when you wear the most heavy-duty, ultra-support bras.
- The cleavage is a major trap for crumbs. One time, I was in the office, in front of my computer, enjoying the crostini and spinach dip I was having for dinner when my cleavage started to itch. I realized that a lot of crumbs had fallen into my neckline, heading straight for my cleavage. While most people's crumbs drop straight to the floor or the table, my crumbs take a detour—straight to my bra. Why should it be a wonder that it's almost impossible for me to drink Chocolait or eat ice cream without getting drops on my shirt when my boobs are always in the way?
- Try running with these babies strapped to your chest and you'll see what "weights" mean.
- Everything you wear can make you look slutty. Years ago, I remember reading about Jerry Seinfeld's ex-girlfriend Shoshanna's desire to go for breast reduction surgery for the very same reason. While I do not share her longing to go under the knife, it was good to realize someone understood how I felt.

Before I am cursed for being a complete moron complaining about something that so many other people wish for, I must admit that being well endowed has its good points.

- Some clothes just look nicer when you have a healthy bustline.
- I've never felt the need to stuff my bra - there's never extra space anyway.
- I actually have a cleavage—with or without underwire.
- According to some people—Tim, for example—the cleavage can be a good place to hide your valuables.
- I'd never be mistaken for a man.

Big boobs are okay, cleavage is good—as long as people realize that there is a lot more to you than your bra size.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph


It covers her maternity expenses.
And her post-partum slimming program.
Mari Gomez, Interior Designer
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

The work of Mari Gomez is all about using limited resources to create a décor masterpiece. As a mother, she also manages her household budget so her family can live well without spending too much. But with her present OB/Gyne fees and medicine, her expenses shoot up.

Good thing, her Dolce Vita takes the load off her back. It's the newest offering from AIG Credit Cards that helps women like Mari take charge of their expenses and their lives. The Maternity Benefits cover hospital and delivery charges up to P5,000. Other female health services include free lab tests like ultrasound, pap smear, urinalysis or a blood sugar count. After giving birth, her baby is entitled to two free visits to the pediatrician. Special fitness packages allow her to exercise in top gyms at discounted packages. To refresh her skin, she can see a dermatologist free of charge on the first visit.

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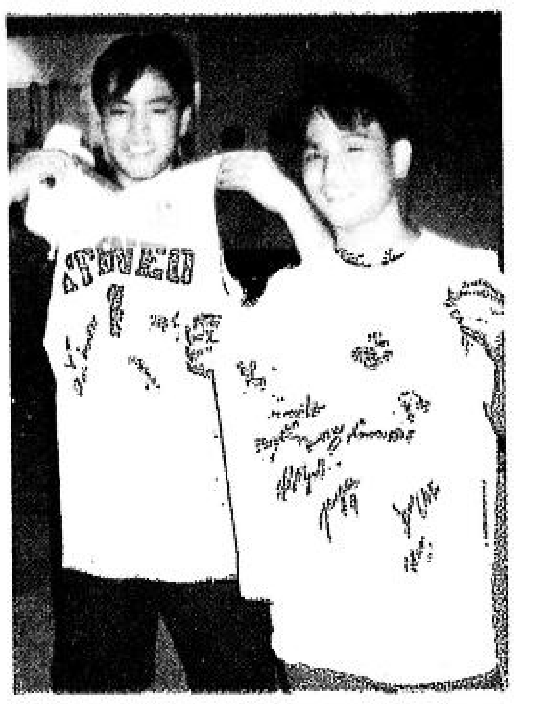
JERSEY GIRLS. Monique Santos and Lyrille Lee

MEG Magazine's Mabel David and Side Stitch host Peejo Pilar

MINGOY'S maestro Macky Katigbak and AdMU Batch 2001 Has Hernandes

HAPPY Meals' Jorrel Corpus with the author



FINALLY, fans get their shirts signed.

Ateneo de Manila University's bonfire *victory* party

Text by Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Tammy David

IT was arguably the most-talked about event of the year. After 14 years, the Ateneo de Manila University once again bagged the championship title of this year's UAAP men's basketball division. Obviously, a victory this big garnered a string of celebrations, and the grand finale was on Oct. 13.

Everyone knew there would be a bonfire at the Ateneo de Manila University grounds. But we didn't expect it was going to be a massive event, with tents, stages, food booths of all sorts, and Ateneans of all ages, as well as many non-Ateneans, who flocked to the university to make this celebration the school's biggest (in a very long time).

The celebration kicked off with a Mass in the newly constructed Church of Gesú. A short program cohosted by Jude Turcuato, Jim Paredes and courtside reporter Patty Laurel then took centerstage as they introduced the athletes to the crowd and showed video clips of the team's previous games.

The bonfire was lighted at around 9 p.m., like a supernova that fell on the ground. The basketball team had an autograph signing session in one of the tents—one that would last till the wee hours of the morning! Even after the rain poured, the tent was still jam-packed with excited fans. The Flintstones and Rivermaya also spray-painted the night with music, riveting the crowd into a frenzy.

SUPER POWERS. Chris Belisario, Ellamae Chua, Michelle Leonardo, Chinie Canivel and Pauline Yambao

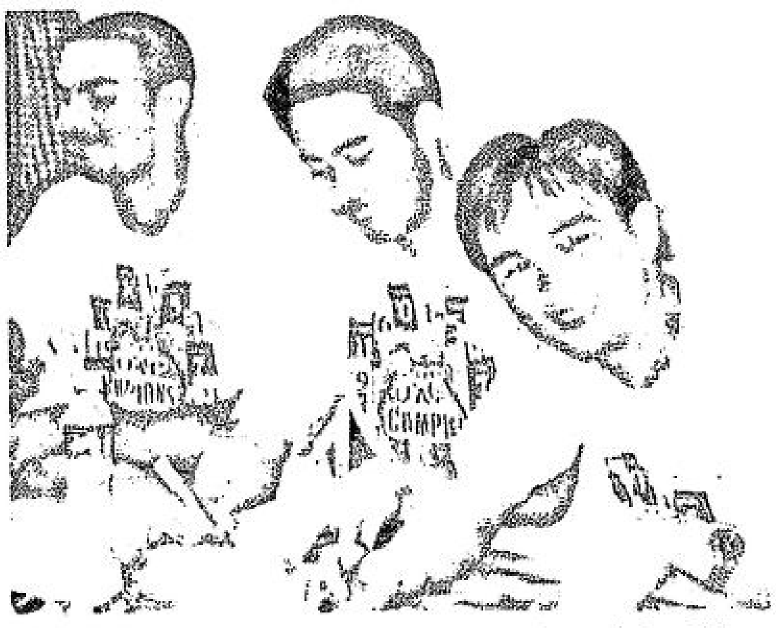
It was like a reunion, university fair and victory party all rolled into one. Several alumni even flew in from the provinces to witness the event. Everyone was lounging around, having a good time. When the rain started to trickle, most of the people rushed to the buildings, particularly Xavier Hall, and started little parties of their own along the Edsa Walk and on some of the benches.

I was never really a big fan of the UAAP or basketball for that matter. Even though my brothers are two of the best basketball players in their high school and the rest of my family are all gung-ho basketball freaks, I hardly ever watched any of their games. During my freshman year, I didn't even understand what this whole UAAP hullabaloo was all about. But this year, my school spirit just surged to great heights. I watched some of the most crucial games live, and never had I felt so passionately about wanting my school to win. Last Saturday night, I didn't mind treading on the muddy field in my 4-inch heels or getting my toes and pants soaked in mud (not to mention, setting aside my studying for the upcoming finals!). I wanted to be there to celebrate my school's victory. And so did everyone else. Not even the rain could stop us Blue Eagles from soaring high.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

"SIGE, sige, sige, INQUIRER!" LA Tenorio, Rich Alvarez and Marco Benitez take a break to pose.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE MVP. Enrico Villanueva and coach Joel Banal



LET'S GET IT ON. Doug Kramer, Larry Fonacier and Gec Chia

Divers help to keep Bonito worthy of its name

By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

A well-known dive spot, it looks clean until closer inspection reveals that pollution is threatening the idyllic place

WHEN longtime friend and DiveNet dive instructor Joy Cubelo-Castillo invited me to participate in a Batangas cleanup event, I was quick to say yes even before she could add "Splash for Trash," the title of the special bay cleanup.

The activity was held the world over, Joy said, and their dive shop did it twice a year to create awareness of the sorry state of the country's seashores. A few days later, carrying my own diving gear, I joined a group of 35 or so other eager diver-participants. We were quite happy that we could use our hobby to do something for the environment.

We drove to Anilao, and from there took a boat for the 30-minute ride to Bonito Island.

Bonito is well-known as a dive spot among both locals and foreigners. Many people learned to dive here so you could say this was where they first got their feet wet.

The island looks like a typical small coastal town in the Philippines. Fishermen go out to the sea in sturdy bancas while the many tourist-oriented establishments like restaurants and resorts ply their trade against a backdrop of swaying coconut trees, a gray-and-white pebbled beach, lush Batangas mountains and a cool, inviting ocean.

Pollution threat

Closer inspection reveals that pollution has started to threaten this idyllic setting. Pollutants may not stand out like drums of glowing radioactive waste or even smelly garbage, but their presence could not be denied and so have to be dealt with.

I was eager to start our dive in the afternoon after a brief rest. In a pre-drive briefing, Hernel Castillo, DiveNet general manager and a Padi (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) course director, told us to always use gloves and not to go bare-footed when collecting trash, avoid picking up anything unusual (there were horror stories of people picking up unexploded dynamite), avoid trash with coral growing on it already, avoid paint cans which might spill its contents, avoid poking our noses into unfamiliar things and just basically exercise common sense.

NOT JUST A PHOTO-OP. These divers do care for the environment.

Hernel has been a scuba instructor for 14 years and speaks from experience. "There are times when you don't see trash—other times you see it everywhere. It comes from all over."

Plastic water bottles and bags, styrofoam cups, instant noodle container—garbage was there. We paid more attention to non-biodegradable waste than to biodegradables, especially plastics. "A piece of plastic can choke coral or fish," Joy explained. Fortunately it was easy to spot the plastics as they stuck out like sore thumbs. They were literally like fluttering flags, silently screaming "pick me up" against a backdrop of natural, beautiful coral reef.

The trash wasn't just in one area but littered across a wide area. And even as we tried to do as much as we could during our dive, it was obvious our efforts would only go so far, considering the area covered.

But we did our best, piling as much as we could into our baskets, which we hauled onto the shore. We sorted our "harvest" and listed the items in special data sorting forms, which would be sent to the Ocean Conservancy in Virginia Beach, USA. The data gathered is studied there.

UNDERWATER clean-up

Little bit cleaner

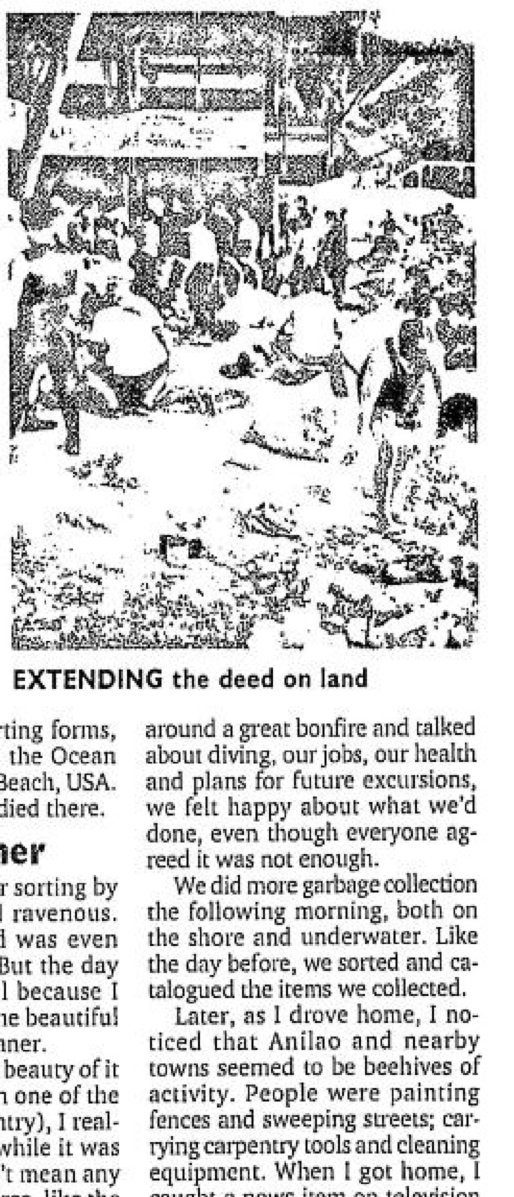
When we finished our sorting by 5:30 p.m., we were all ravenous. The picturesque island was even prettier during sunset. But the day was made extra special because I was able to help make the beautiful place just a little bit cleaner.

As I sat, admiring the beauty of it all (and this wasn't even one of the best beaches in the country), I realized how utterly worthwhile it was to value this, and I didn't mean any particular natural resource, like the beach or the ocean or the mountains, but everything around us.

It is truly a privilege to live on a planet with so much beauty, and it is ironic that humans, the most influential inhabitants of the planet, are not contributing to its beauty but even destroying it through pollution.

Going home

At the end of the day, as we sat around a great bonfire and talked about diving, our jobs, our health and plans for future excursions, we felt happy about what we'd done, even though everyone agreed it was not enough.



EXTENDING the deed on land

We did more garbage collection the following morning, both on the shore and underwater. Like the day before, we sorted and catalogued the items we collected.

Later, as I drove home, I noticed that Anilao and nearby towns seemed to be beehives of activity. People were painting fences and sweeping streets; carrying carpentry tools and cleaning equipment. When I got home, I caught a news item on television confirming what I had seen. People, inspired by what divers (not just us) were doing, had started to clean up their own neighborhoods.

As I sat watching those people on TV, I began to think that maybe there's hope for us after all.

Email the author at gary@exchange.ph

King on a barber's throne

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

Hair massage, haircut and ear-cleaning—all of these and more will make you feel kingly

IN MY CHILDHOOD, a visit to the barber days before school started was a must. Although my school required its students to sport short hair all the time, I never saw a haircut as an obligation. Up to now, I have always believed that a decent haircut is as good as a decent suit and tie.

It is more likely that a person's character is determined by his haircut. Haircut has become a powerful tool for one's confidence, so powerful that numerous styles have been created to meet the taste of men, young and old alike.

In this discriminating world, vanity and hygiene shouldn't be taken for granted. Vanity, which was a not-so-common word with the male species then, has crept into the language of my generation now. It is not just about earning *pogi* points from girls, but it is also about feeling good about one's self and boosting the self-esteem essential to one's success.

And in these modern times, barbers and barbershops have become more competent. In fact, one barbershop has made vanity "very Bruno."

Bruno's is not just about masculinity; it's also about style.

Cut, snip and massage

I had a chance to visit one of Bruno's newly renovated branches in Ortigas and try out their services.

Mr. Rene was my Bruno's barber for the day. He shampooed my hair and made me sit on one of the barber's chairs. I got a total hair repair. I normally got this from a salon. A woman would usually perform this because I was at ease with them and I found them experienced. But I was totally wrong with Rene, who had been with Bruno's for more than three years.

He applied the hair treatment cream and massaged it onto my scalp. Rene's scalp massaging techniques felt so good it felt like I was getting a full body massage before he turned on the automated massaging system that came in with the high-tech seat.

While my hair was under steam, Rene took my arms and massaged them inch by inch. It was a great break from a stressful week. I had to report to work the same night so it was all really right timing. The back massage added to the relaxation.

I had my hair rinsed, and Rene suggested that I had my hair trimmed and I obliged. Rene didn't take out an electric razor; instead he took out a set of scissors and snipped my hair to style. But he later had to use the razor because the hair on my nape was unusually asymmetrical. I was astonished at how Rene did my haircut—it was done perfectly.

Haircut never felt so gratifying. But I never knew I was in for the next addicting service Bruno's offers its clients.

BRUNO'S BARBERS. Always at your service

Scoop away

A lamppost was situated right next to me and Ms Adel took in charge. Her agenda—to clean my ears. I declined to have a foot therapy because I was not confident enough to expose my feet.

Ear-cleaning originated from China. It is offered by Chinese barbers, but the tradition is slowly disappearing. We Filipinos are fortunate that Bruno's has revived this addicting service.

Adel took out a long, metallic scoop. Slowly she poked the insides of my right ear, probed, scraped and tickled while I lay back on my chair, with a serene, even blissful, expression on my face. I can tell because the treatment sent shivers of pleasure all over my body. Silent and concentrated, she then repeated the whole process, with little scoops of the copper prong.

She drew back my hair and stroked the skin around my ear with a small damp cloth that ended the procedure.

For a brief moment, I was in nirvana. No wonder Bruno's clients have their ears cleaned every week.

Girls are also pampered at Bruno's. The shop does ladies' haircut, and if this still doesn't astonish you, it also shines shoes for a measly P40. If you want to know more about its services, visit www.brunosbarbers.com.

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@edsmail.com.ph

House . . .

From page C8

name, something very catchy," says Joyce. But the name is not at all misplaced, since Bruno means "brown man" in Italian.

Bruno, as with most Italians, has a natural charm that disarms women, as the barbershop also gets its share of female clients. "We do have female haircutters as well," she explains. "Although most of our barbers are male who have come from a generation of barbers as well."

Younger clients may ask the barbers to execute the more hip hairstyles. More males are growing their hair longer, and a trim in Bruno's wouldn't result in a flat top, crew cut, or that infamous "barber's cut." Besides, expect the staff to be really friendly, since it is part of how Bruno's aims to take its services a notch higher.

For the men out there who want to be even better groomed than just having the perfect hair, Bruno's got all the answers. As mentioned, manicure and pedicure are available, as well as ear cleaning. And while the staff is fussing over your hair, nail and ears, you could also ask them for that good old shoeshine. (Tip: Go to Bruno's a day before your ROTC general inspection.) What's more, you can also have your hair colored, your scalp treated and your feet massaged. Note also that in Bruno's, there's such a thing as "Iper," where they set your hair according to how you want it.

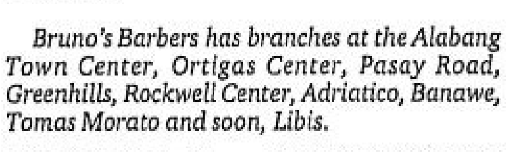
For example, if you have wavy hair, Iper can make it straight, and it should last for a week or so. Or if you have a flaky scalp, the dandruff exfoliating service should help you get into those black shirts again.

As Joyce said, there's nothing wrong in men who are completely concerned about the way they looked. "It's not just for vanity reasons; it's good that men have learned to take care of themselves."

In fact, Joyce thinks males want to be pampered like women. After seeing every day the number of men who have become more open to these "ideas," such as the facial treatment, for example, Joyce thinks male vanity is nothing to be uncomfortable about. In fact, in the animal kingdom, it's the male peacock that does all that feather ruffling and fluffing, with colors to match.

You're male; there are more than just feathers to shake about. And in Bruno's, you don't have to worry about being surrounded by females while you're at the height of your beautification.

Bruno's Barbers has branches at the Alabang Town Center, Ortigas Center, Pasay Road, Greenhills, Rockwell Center, Adriatico, Banawe, Tomas Morato and soon, Libis.



It helps her manage the household budget.
And keeps track of her business expenses.
Deanne Montoya, Entrepreneur
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Certainly, Deanne considers owning a Dolce Vita as one of the most sound business decisions she has ever made.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1665 Series of 2002.

House of male vanity

By Jason Doplito
2bU! correspondent

HORROR story of the day: You're having a grand time dreaming about the number of girls who'd swoon over your new "Russel Crowe" haircut. Then with a jolt, you wake up on the barber's chair only to look at your Hannibal Lecter-like reflection. Yep, the sides have been shaved and the hair snipped really close to the scalp.

He's done it again—your barber made you look like a grade school boy.

If you're absolutely sick of having your ears stick out exceptionally, and beauty parlors make you feel uncomfortable, then it's about time you get acquainted with Bruno. He sounds tough all right, but he will shed light about basic, everyday guy problems, such as dirty fingernails, ears and shoes, plus getting that Russel Crowe 'do.

Bruno's Barbers, a traditional but contemporary barbershop, is a welcome change in this day and age when trends change as fast as you can say, "I want the 7650!" It offers everything you've grown to love about your neighborhood barber, like a massage on the back and some small talk, but without the horrifying razor that slashes your hair just about every time you sit on his chair. This bad experience of many people with barbers has resulted in the proliferation of beauty parlors in just about every corner of this city. After all, parlors are better at giving you the latest in hair trends, even if you're male. However, you have to admit that it's absolutely uncomfortable being in a woman's mother ship—imagine your wet hair wrapped in a towel while 20 women watch you—you might as well be naked. But say goodbye to these fears as Bruno's, despite its traditional concept, offers services that one can get in salons, and even more.

> Men want to be pampered like women. So they go to Bruno's

IT'S OUR TURN. Men are doing it for themselves.

For example, when was the last time you enjoyed a damp hot towel on your face like it was the most relaxing thing in the world? Or do you remember the time when barbers offered to shine your shoes? Or even to clean your ears? Apparently, these are things that our fathers used to enjoy, which we could now also enjoy.

'Brown man'

It's ironic that it took women to realize the need for a trendier barbershop that would still have its traditional services. Amy Manas-Pascual had found it difficult to look for the right barbershop for his then toddler-son, Marco. Together with her sisters, Katrina Manapat, Peachy and Joyce Manas, they put up Bruno's, which has been operating since 1990.

So who exactly is Bruno? These women have no idea. "We just wanted a masculine

HOUSE/ p.C7

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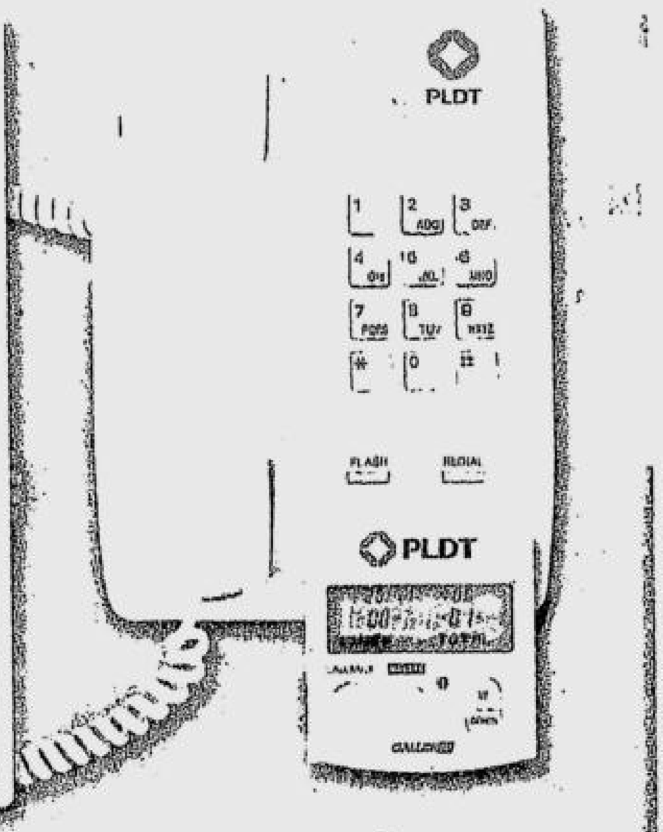

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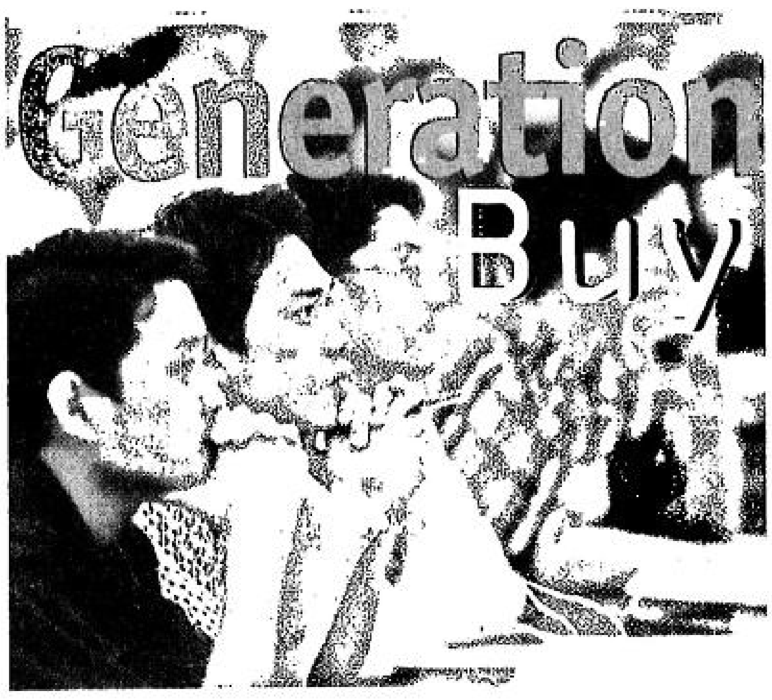

Generation Buy

Materialism is consuming the youth. Young people's identity has become not a matter of soul-searching, but shopping

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

"ASK why," wrote Ms Emily Abrera on my program that I asked her to sign. That was what she also said many times during her speech. Why do the youth fall prey to the traps of consumerism? Why do they get hooked on commercials? Why is their identity seemingly created by consumer products? Does advertising foster a culture of consumerism in young people?

Abrera is chair of McCann-Erickson Philippines and holds a key position in the Advertising Board of the Philippines.

Her talk was part of the seminar series sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations at the University of Asia and the Pacific. I was particularly interested in the way she addressed the issue of blatant youth consumerism.

GENERATION/ p.D2

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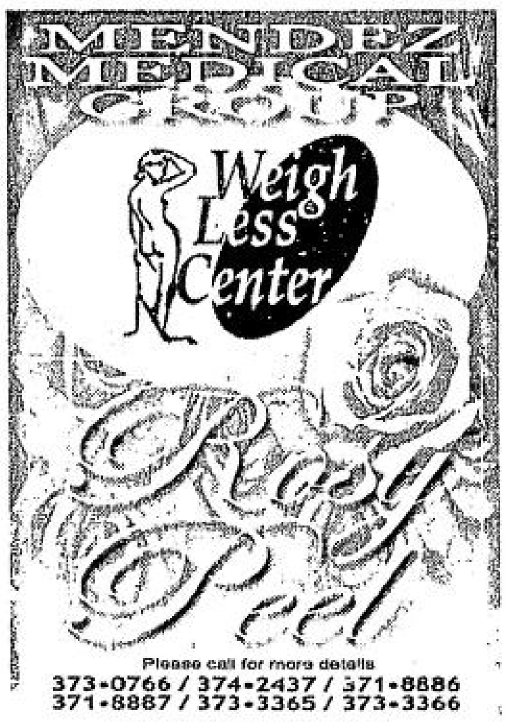
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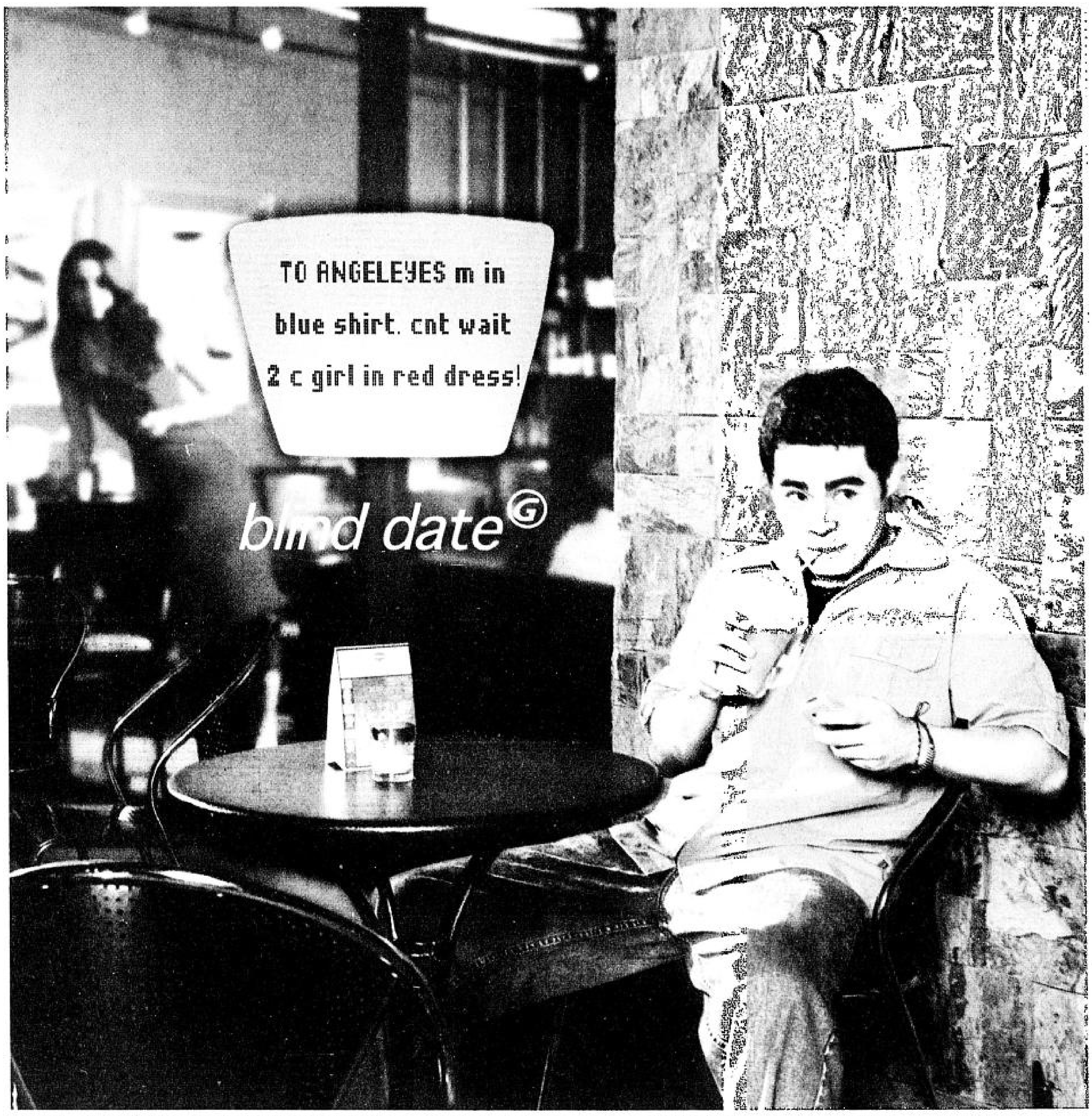

TO ANGELEYES m in blue shirt. cnt wait 2 c girl in red dress!
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RAUL Roco

EMILY Abrera and Jessica Zafra

CONRADO de Quiros and Bam Aquino

From page D1

I was pleasantly surprised to see that in the seemingly cutthroat world of advertising, good people such as Abrera are there to help filter out the good ad campaigns from the bad ones.

Her talk on commercials included a survey of the advertisements in recent months, including those for Sprite, McDonald's (the Karen/Gina series), Globe and Royal Tru-Orange. By her analyses, the audience saw these in a different light.

Sex and beer

Sex in advertising is a particularly hot issue. Abrera said her company has tried to show in the latest San Miguel ad the many different faces of beautiful women (even pregnant women are in the commercial) to prove that you don't need sex to sell beer or alcohol. She pointed out that if had she had had her way, she would have added a wider range of Pinay beauty—those of darker skin in particular—but in the end, it was the client who had the final say.

On the other side, we have seen a tasteless beer advertisement featuring a celebrity having her blouse blown by the wind to expose her breasts.

Generation
Buy

PDI president Sandy Prieto

Phone crazy

The second speaker to have the floor was highly respected writer Jessica Zafra, host of the defunct "Points of View" and the publisher and editor in chief of Flip Magazine. She gave her observations on the youth, particularly their obsession on phones.

She said that the mobile phone has become an extension of ourselves, with smaller and more complex models coming out every few months. We become gullible, spending huge amounts of money on things we do not really need. Even if we do need them, we certainly don't need them replaced every few months.

It becomes a strange kind of paradox, Zafra said. The youth constantly want to keep up with fads, spending valuable time trying to individualize their phones.

The obsession becomes even stranger when, as Ms Zafra pointed out, some people steal just to obtain the latest model. Asked whether she herself wasn't guilty of the same obsession, she replied, "I don't own a cell phone."

Ultimately, it is up to us, the youth, to create our identity. The fear that our possessions are claiming us as their possessions is not fiction anymore. To constantly ask questions about how media seem to control us is necessary. We should not go down in history as the generation whose identity was molded by the brand of jeans it wore.

MARENG Winnie Monsod

MIGUEL Zubiri

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

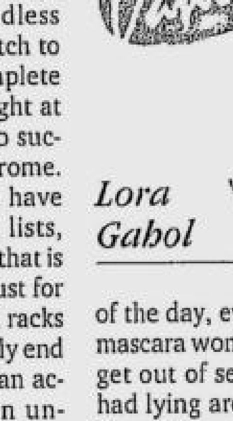
Pocket-friendly beauty products

Lora Gabol

THE ADOLESCENT years might as well be the "golden years" of shopping. With a relatively boundless imagination, an irrepressible itch to keep up with trends, and complete marketing strategies aimed right at us, we teens are most likely to succumb to the Shopaholic Syndrome. We know what we want and have come up with personal wish lists, have memorized the labyrinth that is the mall, will dedicate hours just for rummaging through racks and racks of merchandise... but eventually end up with more foot calluses than actual purchases. You have an uncanny sense of style, a body that fits into anything, a wardrobe in search of new additions, and a wallet that won't cooperate. Ah, the budget constraint! How can you forget when every other price tag glaringly announces "You can't afford me" to your face?

Assuming that you're no spoiled, rich kid (or you are but have gotten grounded for maxing out daddy's Platinum Visa), you need not sever ties with your shopping buddies because there are tons of alternatives you can get your hands on without the shopping-induced starvation diet. First things first. We have to figure out what we allocate all the bucks for—categorize the spending. But before you get any ideas, I am not a financial planner. I could only go as far as suggesting beauty products and closet pieces that are more pocket-friendly, so the only "categories" under my unofficial expertise are skin and hair care, makeup and styling products, clothing and accessories.

Unlike that iridescent loose powder or that new pair of Sevens, skincare products are essentials you just can't live without. Think of it this way: a fabulous dress is just a piece of fabric on bad skin. Hygiene before fashion, that's the cardinal rule. This week, let me share my favorite skincare loot that works just as well as they save you the bucks.

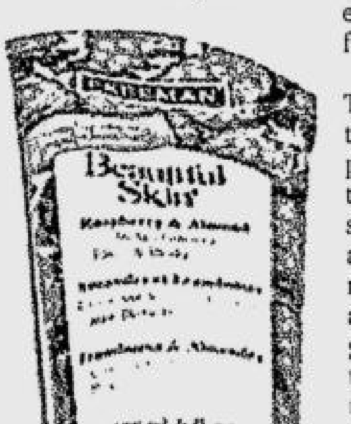


Pond's Cold Cream. The gooey stuff you've seen on your Lola's bathroom counter actually works! This deep cleanser is the saving grace of those who slap on cosmetics on a regular basis. At the end of the day, even the tiniest remnants of mascara won't be spared. The kick you'll get out of seeing how much gunk you had lying around on your face and the idea that none of it could wreak havoc on your unsuspecting pores is well worth the P66 tidbit from your allowance.

Nivea Facial Wash. On days I don't need heavy-duty cleansing, just a mild foaming wash will do. Forget the fancy cleansers with this-and-that-acid that could only irritate skin—gentle is the way to go. A small amount of Nivea facial wash lathers up into a fragrant foam that doesn't leave skin parched as a dessert. At health and beauty stores, pharmacies, supermarkets... practically everywhere, for around P50 for a 50 ml tube.

Clean and Clear Oil Controlling Toner. I used to be a big fan of Neutrogena's Deep Clean Astringent until I stumbled upon this cheaper offering from Clean and Clear. It is almost an accomplishment watching the pollution of Manila change addresses from Lora's Pore to Fluffy Cotton Ball. This refreshing blue liquid leaves skin tingly but never tight. As for its oil-controlling ability, however, I cannot attest to anything because my skin was never a grease machine to begin with. But what the heck? For only P65 per 125 ml bottle, knowing my skin could breathe is enough.

L'Oreal Hydrafresh Gel. It bothers me that some women are not aware of the importance of moisturizing. How can you bear the thought of your skin being attacked by free radicals, the sun, city smog, and all the other harsh elements, without defense? A moisturizer is not just for women over 50 or those with thirsty skin; everyone needs a good moisturizer, but one that is right for your skin type. L'Oreal Hydrafresh has formulations specifically for normal-to-dry and normal-to-oily skin. Both light and fresh (it's not called Hydrafresh for nothing), it doesn't leave the feeling of having dunked your face in a bowl of *sebo*. Did I mention it has SPF 15? A bit steeper at P315, but hey, you'll be thankful when all your moisturizer-phobic peers are eating Botox for breakfast.



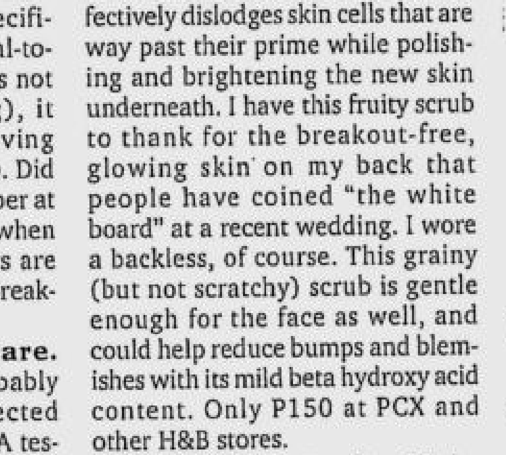
Nivea Lip Care. The lips are probably the most neglected part of the face. A testament to the single status of many, dry and chapped lips means you will not get any smooching. Why give it away when there's lip balm? All these high-end brands are coming up with magic potions made of fish eggs, plant extracts and alien what-have-you's, when all you really need is one with simple emollients, some vitamins, and, of course, sun protection, which are all in Nivea's new lip care line. Available in Sun, Essential, Rose, Repair, Strawberry and the wonderfully delish-smelling Cherry for about P70, you can be sure your kisser will be getting a lot more action soon, if only with a tube of lip balm.

Johnson's Baby Milk Bath. Do those cows a favor and use their milk for the calcium boost instead of the tub. Johnson's has ingeniously incorporated the beautifying properties of milk into a convenient bath buddy. The lactic acid in this gentle-enough-for-baby body wash helps exfoliate and retain skin's moisture to maintain silky-smooth, even-toned skin. And no, it won't leave you smelling like a baby's bottle. Leave the Nido to your baby brother and shell out P90 for a 200 ml bottle instead.

Freeman Raspberry and Almond Face and Body Scrub. I use this scrub in the shower twice a week—or whenever I feel like having a mini-spa treatment in the comfort of my own bathroom. It effectively dislodges skin cells that are way past their prime while polishing and brightening the new skin underneath. I have this fruity scrub to thank for the breakout-free, glowing skin on my back that people have coined "the white board" at a recent wedding. I wore a backless, of course. This grainy (but not scratchy) scrub is gentle enough for the face as well, and could help reduce bumps and blemishes with its mild beta hydroxy acid content. Only P150 at PCX and other H&B stores.

Jergens Skin Cooling Moisturizer. During the day when sun protection is vital, I use Nivea Sun Spray with SPF 20 in place of a regular lotion. At bedtime, however, I give myself in to the pleasure of smoothing on the newest addition to the Jergens skincare line—Skin Cooling Moisturizer with cucumber extract. The sensation of cool cucumber on warm skin is almost electric, and the clean, crisp scent wafting through the air... can you say sensual? The ultimate relaxing experience (next to a massage, that is) for P150? Not bad at all.

Had enough yet? That's not even half of it! I'll be back next week with more value-for-money finds. Meanwhile, why not allow yourself a treat? With all the dinero you'll be saving, you deserve it.



St. Mary's College, Adamson University bag top prizes in cheering competition

DANCERS moving to the beat of the drums. The synchronized swaying of pep squads. Young girls balancing their way to the top, twisting and turning in the most extraordinary positions, doing other heart-stopping routines with sweet smiles.

These are some of the scenes at the recent Town Cheers Cheering Competition held in Alabang Town Center (ATC), the premier shopping and entertainment mall south of Manila. High school and college cheering squads took part in the interschool cheering competition that has become one of the most-awaited events at ATC.

The mall's activity center was transformed into one big stadium as cheering groups from different high school and colleges all over Metro Manila strutted their moves at the pep floor. Five schools competed in the high school category, namely De La Salle Zobel, OB Montessori, School of St. Anthony, St. Mary's College and Augustinian School of Cabuyao, while De La Salle University, DLSU-College of St. Benilde (CSB), St. Benedict College, San Sebastian College and Adamson University vied for the best college cheering group.

Bagging the top prize in the high school category was St. Mary's College, followed by De La Salle Zobel at second place and School of St. Anthony at third place. Consolation awards went to the Augustinian School of Cabuyao and OB Montessori.

The talented Falcons from Adamson University clinched the first place, wowing the audience with their energetic routines. DLSU-CSB won second place while San Sebastian College came in at third place.

Special awards were also given by Sony Philippines to the winning schools and cheerleaders. St. Mary's College and Adamson University were named the Sony Walkman Teams, each winning a Sony CD/cassette player. Sony Walkmans were also given to the following students for being the Sony Walkman Cool Girl and Guy: Reincisse Navarro of St. Mary's College and Adrian Tirona of De La Salle Zobel for the high school category, and Aleli Diago of Adamson University and David Lee of DLSU-CSB for the college division.

Town Cheers is one of the signature community events mounted by ATC. The activity was capped by a fashion show at the Corte de las Palmas, which featured cheerleaders from each school donning the latest collection of Bench and Human.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How I rebuffed the puff

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bUI Correspondent

I WAS in the first grade, coconut husk-shaped hair and all, when I found a cigarette stick sandwiched between my cherry lips. I didn't want to try smoking, but my nanny simply wanted to see how a 7-year-old would take all the poison. I coughed all my innards out even if I had just one puff. I made such a racket that my *yaya* had to pack her *bayong* and leave the next day.

Because of the butt-spanking from my parents who called me gullible, and the suffocating, itchy feeling my mouth got from all the smoke, I naturally avoided cigarettes and developed a serious loathing for smoking. So I crumpled my face in disgust whenever someone inquired for a lighter, or I screamed a *colegiala*-inspired "*Yaaak!*" whenever I discovered that a friend owned and used ashtrays.

Flash-forward to first-year college. More gullible than ever, I gave in to peer pressure and took to smoking again.

But it's not as if I always had a cigarette sticking out of my mouth. I just had to do it whenever my friends were doing it and even during those times, I cheated by taking, at most, only three quick puffs until I had no choice but to putt out the fire.

I abhor cigarettes, especially how they insidiously damage you, and during those days when I was forced to smoke just to please my friends, the only thing I enjoyed about it was the art of holding a cigarette stick. Stuck between fingers, the stick looked tantalizing, and I felt independent, attractive, powerful. There's something undeniably poetic about how one holds a cigarette and I just had to make sure the smoking side of me would be immortalized through pictures.

So I settled for menthols. But even the strong menthols turned out to be losers: I felt like chewing day-old Judge. Not one to give up, I had a sweat-filled search and ended up with herbal cigarettes that cost four times more than the regular *yosi* in *sari-sari* stores. That became my savior.

Before long, my respiratory system, together with my wallet, complained. Smoker's cough supposedly lasts for only a week, but my earth-shattering coughs didn't completely leave me even after a month. Phlegm became a staple inside my throat and I suddenly started to sound like Jessa Zaragoza. More ominously, I had breathing problems.

And so I finally had a strong reason to quit, something valid enough for my college buds. I know I shouldn't have waited for something like that to happen, but at least I was still able to stop while I was somehow ahead.

Several calendars have already adorned my walls ever since I put the light out of my last cigarette stick. I have never smoked again. Somewhere down my college road, I lost most of my human-chimney friends and gained some who proved far healthier incentives to my growth as an individual.

After all these nicotine-free years, smoking should already be out of my system, but unfortunately, I have to live the rest of my life nursing the scars my irresponsible teenage ways gave me. I can't breathe as freely as I used to and phlegm now permanently lives inside me. Gross, I know.

And so I am reminded of the resolution I made months before New Year: to never ever smoke again. Nothing could ever make me return to smoking even if it's the most fashionable thing to do. No one can change my mind, not even Jude Law, I swear. No dare could ever make me go near Mark or Marlboro.

For crying out loud, I still need to fulfill my dreams of being a Close-up commercial model! If I go back to smoking, not even Maxam toothpaste would take a look at me.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

I.M. me!

From page D4

YM: Stands for Yahoo! Messenger
Download size: 2.6MB

This IM is by far the best messenger I ever had. Most of my friends also use the service. The IMvironments make instant messaging with YM more exciting. IMvironments allow you to change the look of your message board—from animals to comics, to movies to interactive. By pressing Ctrl+G, you can buzz a friend and witness your message board come to life and make a doorbell sound. Buzzing is like alerting a friend. An interactive IMvironment I enjoyed using was "doodle," where I could just squiggle on a board when I wanted want to get the right words for an article. The latest IMvironments are available through the message board.

Webcam has become a new favorite for YM users. This allows you to see your contacts online. You can even get a still picture of your online crush via webcam.

MSN Messenger: Stands for Microsoft Messenger
Download size: 1.41MB

Although Microsoft has been a pioneer of software, I just got my MSN messenger three years ago. Since then I haven't used any of its features except for file transfer, which has become an essential feature of instant messengers.

A good thing about MSN Messenger is that it automatically shows the name of the e-mail sender on the e-mail pop-up box. It also goes to the inbox directly unlike YM, which asks you for your password.

MSN Messenger allows you to invite people in the same window so that you won't have to shift windows.

Other MSN messenger's features include the Alert tab, which lists all of the alerts you have received in the last 24 hours from Microsoft.NET like stock quotes; the top-selling movies, music and games; and live traffic updates.

Unlike YM and ICQ where you can send your contacts offline messages, with MSN Messenger you still have to e-mail them in case you want to leave them a short note.

Since MSN Messenger uses Passport, there were some instances that it fails to log in, and is only up and running after a few hours.

Regardless, I still run MSN Messenger as one of my instant messengers.

Trillian V 0.74
Download size: 2.4MB

I was introduced to Trillian by a friend who told me about the capability of this software to integrate all of my instant messengers. You can download this from www.ceruleanstudios.com or just go www.download.com and type in Trillian. This interesting software can integrate ICQ, YM, MSN messenger, AIM and even mIRC. But during my first use, it performed an illegal operation so I uninstalled it and went back to the conventional way of logging in.

Another new instant messenger is Go Mail, which has text messaging, mail integration, content tabs and group chat, but I'm better off with just MSN and YM. They're enough to last me the whole day.

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@edsamail.com.ph

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IM me!

Instant messaging has become sophisticated, improving communication between friends here and abroad

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

BEFORE TEXT messaging became popular, the tech-savvy were hooked up with instant messaging, also known as IM. Instant messaging is not so different with text messaging, but you need a computer instead of a mobile phone and, of course, you have to have an instant messenger program installed.

IM allows individuals here and abroad a cheap medium for communication. An instant messenger alerts you when a friend goes online. But you should be using a common instant messaging program, otherwise, you won't be able to catch your friends go online and vice versa. In this case, you would have to download the IM program your friends are using or vice versa.

IM messengers also alert you when a new message reaches your inbox, so if you are expecting a reply from your special someone, you wouldn't have to open your e-mail over and over again. If he or she replies, you promptly click on the pop-up box that says, "You have a new message."

IM has become so popular that most e-mail providers are coming up with their own versions. IM has undergone a lot of changes. But still, just like a dress or a shoe, there's an instant messenger that will suit your personality.

Here are some instant messengers that have ruled over most of desktop PCs:

ICQ: Stands onomatopoetically for "I seek you."

Download size: 1.7MB (ICQ Lite) and 3.6MB (PRO: full beta version)

This IM program has been available for ages. ICQ is one of the pioneers that have hit desktop PCs big time. In fact, there are already over 120 million ICQ participants. ICQ allows its users not only to send instant messages, but also text messages to mobile phones. This feature may not be familiar with many people because the messages don't get sent to local mobile subscribers. ICQ uses numbers instead of names for identification, which may be difficult for you and for your contacts to remember.

Although this was my first ever IM, I had to give it up because I noticed that it was eating up a lot of my PC's memory. The last version I used was 2000b and now ICQ has come up with a new beta version named 2002a, subdivided it into two categories: one is ICQ Lite, which is intended for new users, and the full beta, which is for old users. I was tempted to download ICQ Lite, thinking that it would use up only a little of my PCs memory, but unfortunately, I already forgot my identification number.

AIM: Stands for AOL (America Online) Instant Messenger.

Download size: 2.45MB (32 bit) and 1.22MB (16 bit)

My friend would joke about AOL's acronym—that it stands for "Always Off-Line." Although I haven't used AOL's Internet service, I could sympathize with my friend. It isn't only difficult to log on to AOL, the line is often cut off.

IM/ p.D3

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LIFESTYLE

MICHELLE Yuson, 19

SAMARA Aguilar, 19

What they'll be doing during the sem break

After a hectic school term, students can't wait to get some sleep and do fun things during the break

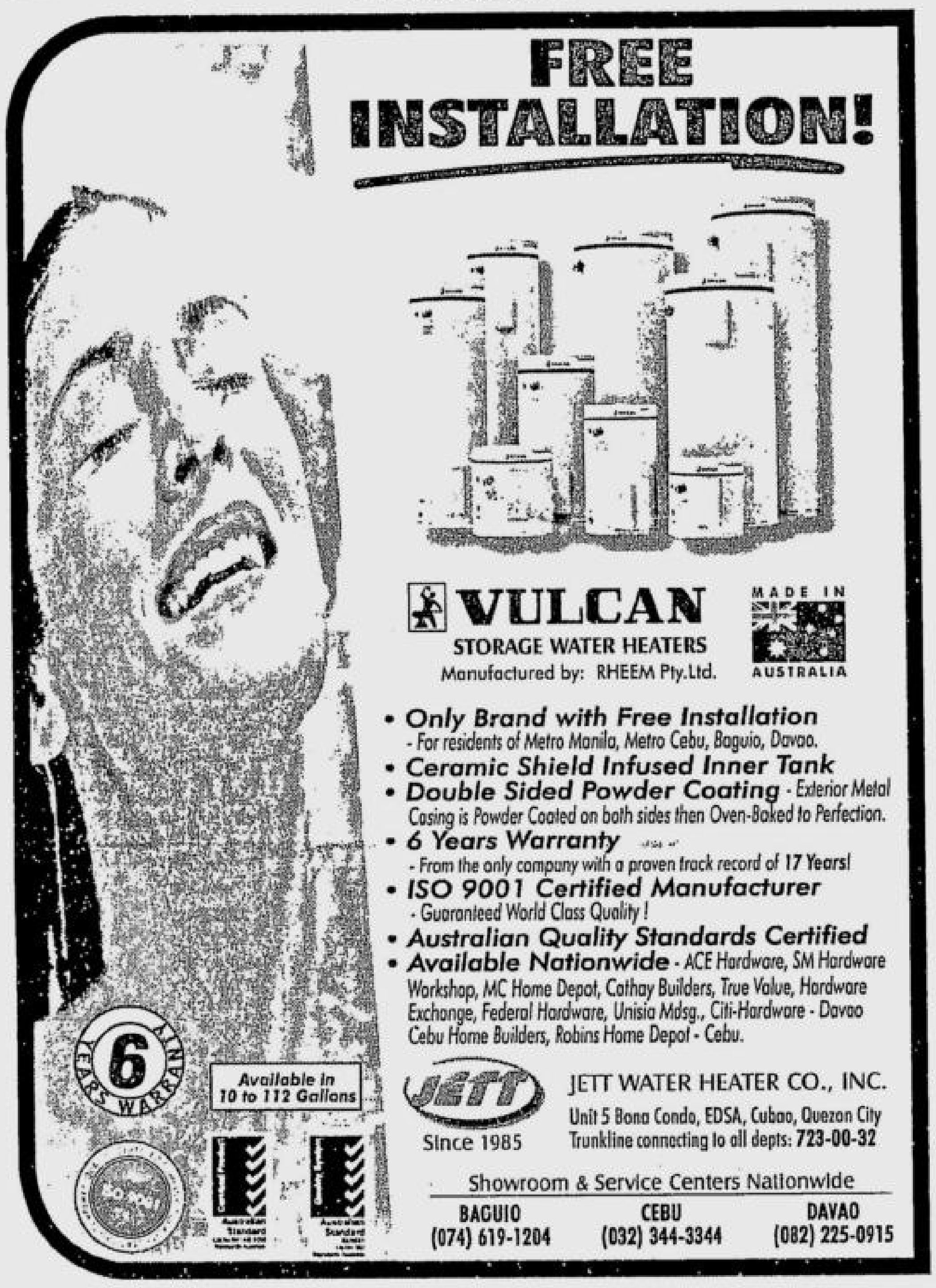
By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

MOST people answered they would sleep the vacation off. We want to ask, "Where's the party?"

Spend my entire sem break with the stack of books I accumulated from panic buying during these past few months.—**Suburban Wit, 20**

I started doing taebo—30 minutes in the morning, 30 minutes in the evening. I really want to have a different look this coming sem.—**Jaycee, 19**

WHAT/ p.E3



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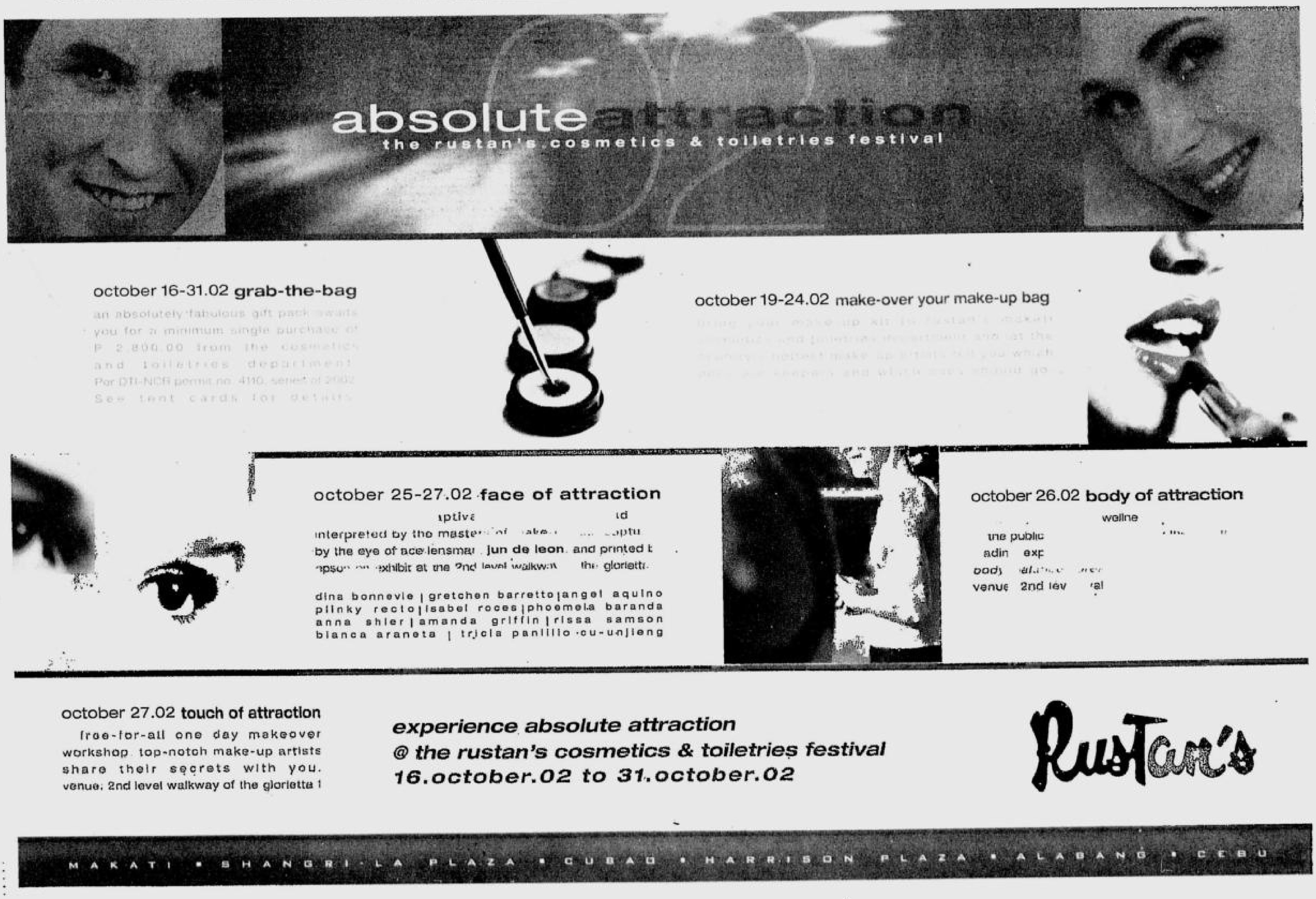

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the rustan's cosmetics & toiletries festival

october 16-31.02 grab-the-bag
an absolutely fabulous gift pack awaits you for a minimum single purchase of P 2,800.00 from the cosmetics and toiletries department
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4110, series of 2002
See tent cards for details

october 19-24.02 make-over your make-up bag
bring your make-up kit to rustan's [illegible] and let the [illegible] hottest make-up artists tell you which [illegible] keepers and which ones should go

october 25-27.02 face of attraction
aptiva [illegible] d
interpreted by the master of make [illegible] captu
by the eye of ace lensman jun de leon and printed b
epson on exhibit at the 2nd level walkway the gloriett
dina bonnevie | gretchen barretto | angel aquino
pinky recto | isabel roces | phoemela baranda
anna shier | amanda griffin | rissa samson
bianca araneta | tricia panlilio-cu-unjieng

october 26.02 body of attraction
wellne
the public
adin exp
body
venue 2nd lev al

october 27.02 touch of attraction
free-for-all one day makeover workshop top-notch make-up artists share their secrets with you.
venue: 2nd level walkway of the glorietta 1

experience absolute attraction
@ the rustan's cosmetics & toiletries festival
16.october.02 to 31.october.02

Rustan's

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2bU!
to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you
XTM stands for Extra long messages, unlimited picture messages plus e-mail

ANIME-LISTIC! Dustin Reyes as Sami, Kenji Marquez as Mico and Elaine Villani as Iya

TECHNOLOGY takes a fun turn

Tim Yap

I AM as tech-challenged as tech-challenged can be. Like a helpless mom trying to operate the VCR, I oftentimes find myself struggling with the inventions of this modern world. I am like a virgin groping in the dark come "baptism time." Sometimes the world can be so fast that you wish it'll just slow down so you can stick to your fighter planes and jigsaw puzzles.

But life's about keeping pace with the world. I was surprised to see my five-year-old nephew playing with his dad's laptop before he went to sleep—and I just learned the wonders of e-mail two years ago! But there has been a backlash against rapid technological advancements, perhaps owing to an economy sent to the dumps by the dotcom bubble, so there is a need for a technology that is easily accessible, for technology that is actually useful and not merely fanciful—not just some masturbatory effort to show off what the folks from the research department have done.

Last week, campus hip took a fun turn as Globe launched its XTM service for GPRS phones (Nokia 3510, Ericsson t200 and Trium Mystral—which were later raffled off) for the city's young, discerning and tech-savvy set. The main hall of the Manila Polo Club was transformed into an icy steel den where citizens of Neo Metro (XTM cyber-savvy dudes and babes) chilled amid down-tempo house music, overflowing booze and a buffet of treats. Elite members of the young media, student journalists and hotshots from top universities gathered under the Polo Club roof to witness what XTM was all about.

Later, in a live animé show of characters, I learned that XTM stands for "extra long messages, unlimited picture messages, plus e-mail on the run"—perfect for that young urbanite in all of us. The show started with **Chinggoy Alonso** playing the role of **Mr. G**, a Professor X type of character out to save the world from destruction.

Straight from the latest Globe television commercial emerged **Iya**, played by hot, hot, hot Colegio de San Agustin student **Elaine Villani** who, with her signature purple shades, boasted about her extra-long 480-character text that wouldn't be broken up into a series of transmissions and would cost more than usual. There was also party boy **Mico**, played by cyber hunk **Kenji Marquez** complete with ultra-high Aquanet hair, who gushed about the picture messages that allowed one to express what words couldn't say. And there was **Sami**, played by Ateneo hearthrob **Dustin Reyes**, who displayed how we could do e-mail on the run—how we could send and receive e-mail whenever, wherever without having to log onto a computer. All this at P1 per transmission. Now how's that for value for our buck?

After the show, the students stayed on. It was a melee of campus editors from UP's Collegian, UST's Varsitarian, Ateneo's Guidon, DLSU's Lasallian, UA&P's Voyager and other student glossies (it's really a growing market) such as Dip (of Ateneo) and the Thames Informer. Chalk chicks led by **Romina Urra**, **Amina Aranaz** and **Jane Kingsu** were the hands-down head-turners. "If it's campus, it's Chalk," Romina winked at me during cocktails.

I had a natural "hai" chitchatting with the students after the launch—their sheer energy, vivacity and zest for life were so infectious, their auras so fresh and bright—that I felt that the scene's evolution was in good hands. After, after-hours were spent at Ponti, where the revelry continued till the wee hours. This, of course, while these savvy partyphiles held on to their cell phones as if holding on to dear life. Now if only I could get Morpheus to install that computer chip so my low-tech brain could be programmed ala-Neo—then I could be the savviest tech-whiz in this side of the Metro Matrix.

This week

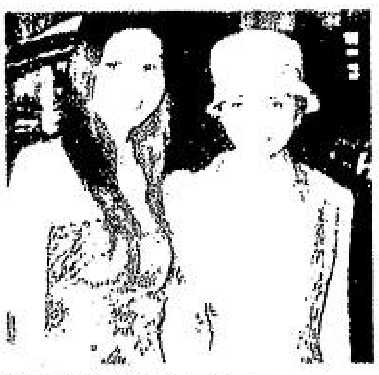
Tonight, at 6 p.m., at 40/F RCBC Plaza, Oakley launches its latest collection with the city's celebrity set in full attendance. Tomorrow, at 6 p.m., it's the turn of the hipsters' favorite, Omega, to party at Pazzo at Glorietta 4. It will be followed by the formal opening of the new Omega Boutique at Glorietta 1 at 8 p.m.

Friday at 4 p.m., all roads lead to Dish for the unveiling of **Joyce Jimenez**'s Skin, her latest bath and body care line for Sari-Sari.

Friday night at 7:30, at the second floor of Rustan's Makati bridgeway, is the much-awaited launch of avant-garde makeup brand Shu Uemura. Expect five faces of beauty to be unveiled that night, plus the city's hip and hot set.

Amid all the stress, pressure and turmoil in the world, take the time to smile, and count your blessings, partyphiles.

CITIZENS OF NEO METRO. Globe XTM's guys and dolls



YOUNG STARS. Raya Mananquil and Celine Lopez

BLUE EAGLES SOAR. Rina del Rosario, Paolo Sarmiento, Bianca Gonzalez and Pamela Picazo at the Polo Club

VARSITARIANS ALL. Jervy Nuez, Cristina Lavapie and Brix Bayuga from UST

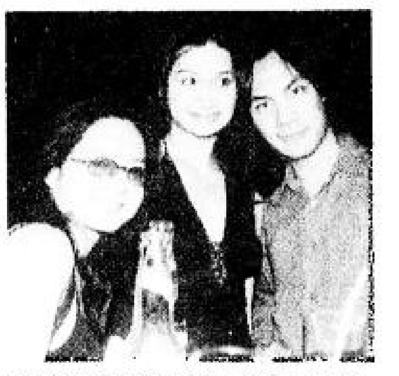
STATE university style files Leigh Consolacion, Imon Monzon, Tina Monzon and Marus Papio

CHALK CHATTING. Jane Kingsu, Amina Aranaz, Franco Mabanta, Rhed Sandico and Mags Paguyo

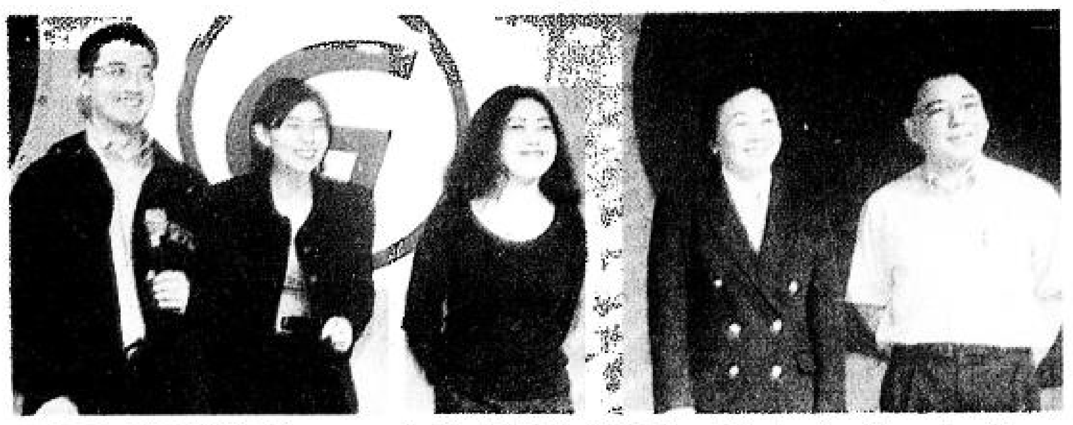
KAMI NA! Bianca Fernandez and Macky Lim

MODEL STUDENTS. Cesca Litton and Pao Peña of UA&P

THREESOME! Ivan Gonzalez, Khalil Kaimo and Pam Ayson of DLSU



BLUE THREE. Ayessa Montaner, Sarah Sison and Kokoy Guevara



GLOBAL GROOVIN'. The movers behind Globe's XTM Fino Ruiz, Justine Camacho, Pie Aviola, Lizanne Uychaco and Boy Teodoro at the Manila Polo Club stage

GLOBE A-LISTER. Andrei Felix

EAGLES REIGN. Leanne Jacinto, Anton Bayot and Nicole Jacinto

THAMES CRUISIN'. Suzanne King, Mino Espartero and Yvette Peterson

Why do guys cover girls' eyes to surprise them and girls smooth their hair?

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Caloy,

Why do guys like to cover girls' eyes when they want to surprise them? Can't a simple "Boo!" or "Surprise!" be enough? Please give an exhaustive answer.

Dear Sep,

Why do girls, on the other hand, like to run their hands through their boyfriends' hair? My friends always do that with their boys and I find it odd.

Curious,
CHUCKIE

The act of covering someone's eyes before or during a surprise is a reenactment, a replication in some minute sense, of the moments leading to the awakening by early man into the world of cognition and sense of self and his surroundings. If any of us can remember the first dawn of the first upright human being, it was pure magic—a moment in which the source of light, wind and thought was given unconditional praise and thanks.

Unfortunately, the practice lost most of its novelty after Adam nearly shook his fig leaf off in surprise when he first laid eyes on the Garden of Eden, and completely when God introduced him to Eve. It was all the same after that, except for renaming "vulgarity" and "pornography," "Pulp" and "FHM," which threw everyone off completely.

Since then, modern man has struggled to compete with that first dawn.

Born out of this, the self-effacing jobs of public relations, spin-doctors and advertising were created. And thanks to greed, every day we go farther and farther from that primitive man who gave thanks to the Creator, the Gatherer, the Provider. And the weight of modern man's talents has bent Homo erectus back in his attempts to fool others.

Sure, it was probably funny when Og crouched behind a boulder and mimicked the growls of a saber-toothed tiger, sending Garg skitting off for cover. But later on, Og's arrogant offspring learned more tricks.

These games of peek-a-boo and surprise were to be translated into all ventures of man, tainting all ideologies, religions and innate grace.

People became concerned with convincing others that the following show was what they have been waiting for all their lives. For example, Hollywood keeps us in the dark right before startling us with sound and light shows in movie houses. Technology companies and detergent companies bombard us with "new" products every six months, each with promises of better features and glitches solved, which beg the age-old question of quality control in the original product. Our present government, for which we filled a measly intersection of a highway to put into power, refuses to give us what we screamed ourselves hoarse for (maybe we didn't ask for the right thing). Someone is always in the dark when it comes to politics. All of these cock-a-meme, Frankenstein-ish and morally crippled attempts at fulfilling man's desire for that first sunrise are shadows thrown against a blank, lifeless wall by a candle about to burn itself into nothingness.

What man really wants, what will really surprise and what will make our loved ones throw their arms around us in joy, we will never know until we stop keeping ourselves first in the dark.

CALOY

I, for one, share your curiosity about the fascination of girls with their boyfriends' hair. Hair, to me, is terra incognita—it's often dirty, no matter how many times we wash and shampoo it during the week, and no one knows the kinds of dust that it catches. Plus, it picks up nasty smells easily, like cigarette smoke and car exhaust. I'm not too enthusiastic to touch anybody else's hair, either a guy's or a girl's, and I certainly don't appreciate other people touching mine. However, for those girls who do it and who like to do it, such as your friends, most probably they're only showing affection to their boyfriends. Smoothing someone's hair is actually a very maternal gesture, a manifestation of a girl's desire to take care of that person. Running your hands through someone's hair, though, is a strange thing to do; I've never really seen anyone do that, aside from those models in shampoo and conditioner commercials.

Do your friends' boyfriends have really nice hair? Maybe that's another reason. Nice hair looks inviting to the touch, and maybe your friends are only giving in to the invitation. I don't think there should be a big deal about running your hands through your significant other's hair; one only has to like to do that or one doesn't. But be very curious, though, if your friends suddenly started spontaneously touching any stranger's hair. That could be a cause for worry.

SEP

What they'll be doing during the sem break

From page E1

Eat, sleep and be merry.—**Kokakobanana, 19**

Still work at McDonald's so that I'll have extra cash.—**Amanda Orosa, 19**

Be a bum! It will be a well-deserved break after this hectic semester. I need some time to myself because I've been through a lot these past few months.—**Carlos Vilchez, 20**

I'll be training at the gym and teaching to earn money.—**Michelle Yuson, 19**

I'll be watching all the good films I missed these past months because of schoolwork.—**Curlytops**

Bum around with my friends, go on road trips, *ukay-ukays*, find a hobby— just anything to get away from school and work.—**Ria Ocampo, 17**

Playing gigs, writing songs, and most simply, go out and get drunk! That's what I really like doing.—**Jorel, The Happy Meals**

Harvesting my crops with my 8-year-old son.—**Pancho "The Smart Encoder" Araneta**

I'm going to Boracay to have fun.—**Andrea Logarta, 19**

Surf all I want, and get fat!—**Mot Mot, 19**

Oy, dami! Like shopping and dating. And dating and shopping. Guess I'll be a serial shopper-slash-dater this sem break! *Astiiiig! Apir, apir!*—**Samara Aguilar, 19**

"I'll try my best to insert some out-of-town trips in my sked, in-between student council meetings. I'd balance fun with responsibility... and get myself some well-deserved sleep.—**Carms, 19**

I'll definitely be going out-of-town with my classmates this sem break. It's the best way to unwind from all the hell we've been through last semester, and to get away from it all.—**Mica Siquijor, 19**

JOREL, 21

Catch up on my sleep!—**Patricia Monzon, 19**

I know it is dorky, but I'll do two things this sem break: hit the gym again for some kickboxing, and finish reading the "Dune" series by Frank Herbert. I haven't had the chance to do any reading and it scares me... my mind is filled only with debits and credits. I need a breath of fresh air, and I need to lose weight!—**Emma Maglaque, 20**

I'll continue performing with my band and I'm going to study to prepare myself for an exam so I can enroll next semester and have my master's at UST.—**Acel Bisa, Moonstar88**

I'm having my room redesigned and repainted. I'll be arranging my photo and CD collections, and watching the Oasis concert.—**Mae Zamora**

I'm in Zamboanga at the moment to spend time with my relatives and their new Siberian Husky dog.—**Kate Tolentino, 20**

As much as I want to go somewhere far and just chill with my friends, I can't because we don't have a sem break in my school.—**Kitte, 20**

Get a lot of sleep during the day and hang out with friends in the evening.—**Lawrence Lee, 19**

Hide.—**Angela Ignacio, 2bU! correspondent from Ateneo, 19** (e-mail us for her contact number, address and current location)

Working out on the beach.—**Kel, 18**

Sleep, sleep and sleep. Got to compensate for all those looooong sleepless nights. And make sure our road trip plans push through.—**Libby Morales, 20**

I'll do something to earn extra bucks. Maybe baby-sit my nieces.—**RJ, 16**

I'll catch up on the really important activities—sleeping, watching TV, bumming around, and doing nothing...—**Nico Af, 19**

I'll probably practice driving. I'm getting too old and I can't have a driver forever.—**Fran Feranil, 20**

I'll get all the sleep I can get and have all the fun I can have before the next semester starts. [I won't be able to do] the usual things our generation does *kasi ang panget talaga ng sked sa* school.—**Tazmanian Kooki, 19**

Sleep. 'Cause I f--kin' deserve it.—**Jeff, 21**

Sleep, finally go to Enchanted Kingdom, gain some weight, redo my website, learn Adobe Photoshop, save money for a DV cam and spend time with my dog.—**White Trash Superstar, 19**

Ateneo holds Halloween party

THE ASSOCIATION of Communication Majors of the Ateneo de Manila University invites everyone to its Halloween party on Oct. 19, at the FGM Warehouse, Candelaria Street, Santiago Village, Makati City (along Kalayaan Avenue and Reposo Street, in front of the municipal cemetery).

Come in black or wear a costume and get freebies. There will be fashion shows, bands and lots of food. Hope to see you there!

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Per DTI-NCR permit #3820. series of 2002.

Palawan's
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WATER, water everywhere. UFO-free water, that is.

With Boracay fully booked, a detour to Palawan proved to be a blessing in disguise

Text and photos by Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

I WAS all set and raring to go to Boracay the very first week of summer vacation. My bags were packed, and I could already see myself strolling down the strip of boutiques and checking out the (in)famous bacchanalian shindigs. Unfortunately for me, everyone else on the planet seemed to have the same idea.

FEEDING the giraffes on Calauit Island

Since we couldn't get bookings in any hotel or resort (and we didn't want to spend our vacation living like processed tuna), we went to Palawan instead. Talk about a blessing in disguise.

From the moment I saw Palawan, all wistful thoughts of Boracay flew right out of my mind. I tried hard not to gape but without much success. Club Paradise lives up to its name. Located on the tiny island of Dimakya, the breathtakingly beautiful resort boasted of fine, blindingly white sand, diverse aquatic community, and waters that were crystal-clear even at a depth of 50 feet or so.

A BREATHTAKING view of the sunset on Club Paradise's beach

As we stepped out of the boat, we were greeted with cold drinks, warm smiles and a welcome song by the cheery staff members. We were surprised to learn that there were only about 30 or so guests, and they accounted for more than half the island's entire population. We practically had the whole resort to ourselves, which wasn't a bad idea. Although there were no rave parties or henna tattoo parlors, there were other exotic places to visit and other sights to see.

The beach was so pristine that it was all I could do not to worship the gods for sparing this place from human exploitation. No jagged rocks, no abrasive coral fragments and, especially, no disgusting UFOs (unidentified floating objects)—just us and a occasional school of frolicking fish. Shell collecting wasn't allowed, so I had to fight the temptation to pick up one of those giant "soap dish" shells scattered here and there.

Menagerie

When we'd already swum to our hearts' content, we signed up for the safari tour in Calauit Island. On the way there, I stared at the incredibly clear water and wondered for the nth time how deep it was, as I could still see the bottom where a *pawikan* or two would occasionally appear.

The guide told us there was a dugong sighting the week before, a rare occurrence. Upon arrival on the island, we got into a truck and drove around. It was amazing to see a mini Africa right here in the Philippines—deer seemed as numerous as stray cats, zebras grazed peacefully under the trees, and giraffes' heads stuck out of treetops.

The guide later allowed us to get off the truck and give the bear cats, adorable raccoon-like animals that grabbed your hand and ate from your fingers, some bananas. My backpack just wasn't big enough to smuggle one out. (Just kidding, of course.) The highlight of the trip was when we fed the giraffes. Holding tree branches, we stayed in the truck and waited for them to come to us. It was fun feeding the giraffes, although they almost yanked my arm from its socket as they tugged at the leaves.

We were almost sorry to leave, but since I already resembled a giant *espasol* from all the dust, I was eager to go back to the beach. The guide told us that during the time of President Marcos (who set up the sanctuary), there were even lions and an elephant, I think. However, with government subsidy falling, it became increasingly difficult to feed and care for them. I'm crossing my fingers and toes that this place would be better funded in the future.

Quiet nights

Nights at the resort were totally different. Unlike Boracay where the night life swung, there was practically nothing to do for entertainment except occasional shows and an "improvised" disco, which would have been more fun if there were more people dancing. But being a homebody, I was perfectly content to play billiards or table tennis at the recreational area or read books in different languages in the quaint mini library. The best part was just sitting on a lounge chair and getting cross-eyed trying to identify the constellations in the moonlit sky. Given the distance between smog-filled Manila and Palawan, I wasn't surprised to see more stars and the moon in all her naked glory.

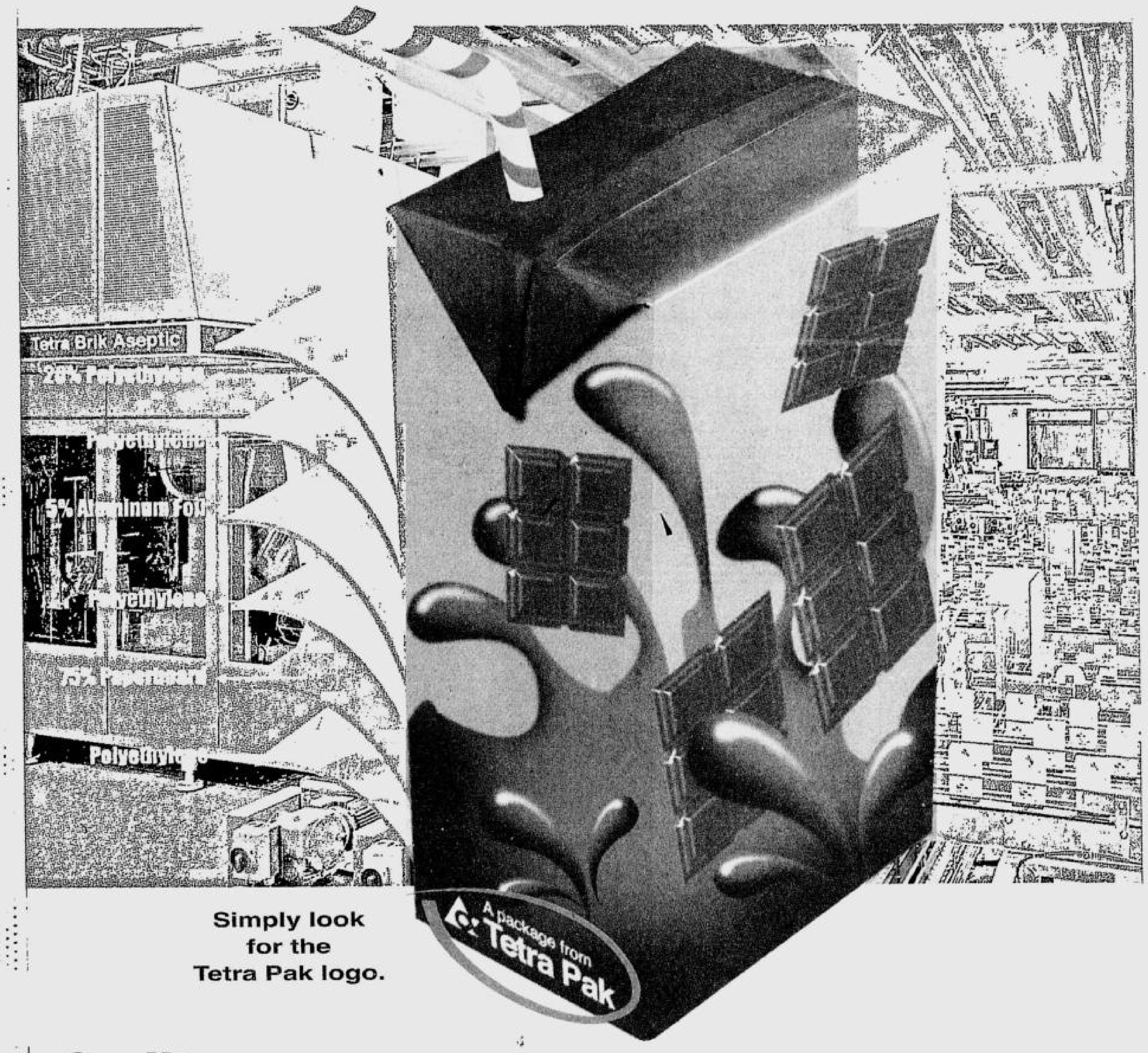
I didn't want to return to Manila. Going back would mean dust in my lungs and stress with every breath I take. But, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. I swore to myself that I'd be back one day and do the things I wasn't able to do—kayaking, scuba diving, island-hopping and taking a picture of that elusive dugong.

Club Paradise is one of the very few places that look exactly like the photographs in the brochures—the beaches, the rooms, the facilities and everything else. You are assured that you're getting your money's worth. Gloria de Paz, the resort's guest relations officer, said the ongoing conflict in Mindanao caused a slump in the number of visitors, but she gave the assurance that the whole island was perfectly secure. I couldn't agree more. It's ideal for people who want to be as far away as possible from the bright lights and dizzying pace of urban insanity.

There's just one little problem: there's no cell site. But trust me, it's for the best.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com.

Inside and out it's pure quality.



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